It's David Castro, all right, confirms PCGG

Story Below, Column 2

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

TUESDAY, APRIL 24, 2001 ★ 42 PAGES 3 SECTIONS VOL.16 NO. 135 ₱15

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Viña admits knowing of Dacer kidnap-slay

By Christine Herrera, Michael Ubac and Cathy Yamsuan

SENIOR Supt. Teofilo Viña, former chief of the defunct Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force-Visayas, has admitted that he knew that his men were involved in the abduction and murders of Salvador "Bubby" Dacer and his

VIÑA/ A16

HAPPY B-DAY
SAMAHANG ERAP
ERAP... REM

GATHERING storm is brewing outside the gate of North Greenhills where Estrada defenders are becoming organized. DENNIS SABANGAN

Estrada seeks to delay arrest

Erap owns gun in car: So what? It's licensed

By Volt Contreras and Donna S. Cueto

JOSEPH Estrada is annoyed that the presence of a gun in his vehicle is being questioned.

Contacted by the Inquirer by phone yesterday at his North Greenhills residence, Estrada said in Filipino: "Is it wrong for me to protect myself? It's been there since I was still a mayor and up to the time I became president."

The disgraced leader was talking about his "licensed" gun, the .45 .cal pistol that was photographed in his vehicle at one point during his tour of depressed areas in Metro Manila on his 64th birthday on April 19.

He said he kept the gun within reach that day "in case of an ambush, an emergency."

ERAP/ A4

ARMED with a stone, an Erap supporter is restrained by a colleague. DENNIS SABANGAN

Accused asks for 10 days to file SC petition

By Martin P. Marfil and Volt Contreras

LAWYERS for deposed President Joseph Estrada and his son San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan to delay their arrest so that they could contest the charge of economic plunder before the Supreme Court.

Plunder is a capital offense defined as the systematic theft from the state of P50 million or more.

The defense lawyers also asked the anti-graft court to have the case returned to the Office of the Ombudsman for preliminary investigation.

And should the court rule against the father and son, their lawyers asked the Sandiganbayan to give them 10 days to file a petition before the Supreme Court.

The Sandiganbayan is now examining the charge to determine whether there is "probable cause" to throw the disgraced President and his son in jail ahead of the trial.

But Sandiganbayan Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena said that once there is "probable cause" an order for the arrest of the ousted leader would follow.

"If probable cause exists, an order of arrest must issue. Those two things just follow each other in the most natural and automatic sense," Garchitorena said.

ESTRADA/ A16

Land, air, sea teams set for Erap arrest

By Christine Herrera and Volt Contreras

POLICE will deploy land, air and sea security teams to ensure that the arrest of deposed President Joseph Estrada and his transport to a prison cell at Fort Sto. Domingo in Sta. Rosa, Laguna, (not Silang, Cavite, as earlier reported) will proceed without a hitch.

"The Philippine National Police vows to accord the deposed President the respect and dignity that befit his status as former President. So we are giving him the most elaborate firepower that would fully secure him," Director Thompson Lantion, chief of directorate for police community relations, yesterday said.

Lantion said a medical team would join each security group.

While the police are busy preparing the security arrangements for Estrada, the ousted President accused the government of plotting to maroon him on a tiny Pacific island.

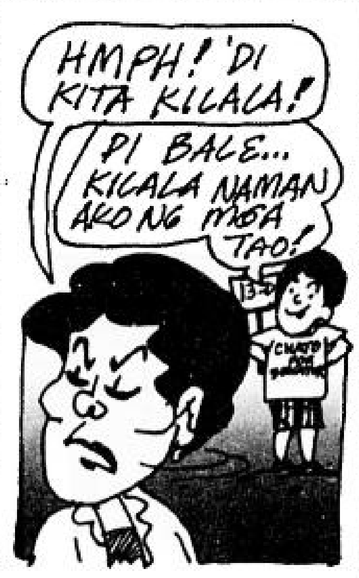
He charged that under the bizarre plan, the Air Force would intercept his jet, force it to land in the US trust territory of Palau and make it appear he fled into exile to avoid prison.

The military flatly denied the allegation, countering that Estrada is under a 24-hour watch after being indicted three weeks ago for economic plunder, a crime punishable by death.

Estrada is expected to be detained at a five-hectare PNP Special Action Forces Seminar and Training Center at Fort Sto. Domingo.

Estrada said it did not matter where he

LAND/ A5



HMPH! 'DI KITA KILALA!
DI BALE... KILALA NAMAN AKO NG MGA TAO!
CHATO FOR SENATOR

1st class for 'Masa,' economy for PPC

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Six senatorial candidates of the People Power Coalition and three candidates of the Puwersa ng Masa yesterday found themselves taking the same Philippine Airlines flight from Manila to this Mindanao city.

But while the administration candidates sat in economy class, the PnM

IST/ A16

Jinggoy 'bullshits' bag check

By TJ Burgonio

SAN JUAN Mayor Jinggoy Estrada yesterday nearly came to blows with an official of the Aviation Security Group (ASG) over the inspection of his baggage and those of his mother, former first lady Luisa Ejercito, and Sen. Vicente Sotto at the old Manila Domestic Airport.

A furious Estrada berated and cursed Senior Supt. Pedro Sanchez, ASG deputy director, for ordering his men to sift through the baggage of the Estradas and Sotto prior to their departure for General Santos City, a witness said.

"What authority do you have in ordering the inspection of our baggage? Show me the order! Bullshit *kayo*," the witness quoted the mayor as telling Sanchez.

But Sanchez maintained his

JINGGOY/ A4

FORTUNE COOKIE JOAN BONDOC

President Macapagal's first visit to Chinatown in Binondo on Monday is hosted by the Chinese-Filipino Business Club which gifts her during a luncheon-dialogue with a Buddha for good fortune. *(Story on Page A3.)*

DAVID CASTRO: Allegedly caught because of an "authentic" $800-M gold certificate.

It's Castro, PCGG confirms

Relatives in Manila blame Marcoses for FBI mess

By Blanche S. Rivera and Jerry Esplanada

ON THE BASIS of a copy of a passport sent by the US Federal Bureau of Investigation to the Philippine government, the Presidential Commission on Good Government yesterday confirmed that the David Castro arrested by FBI agents in New York last week is indeed the former PCGG chair.

"It's really him," PCGG officer in charge Jorge Sarmiento told the Inquirer in a phone interview yesterday. "He's the man in the passport."

The FBI recently filed a complaint in a New York court against Castro and Edilberto Marcos, a man claiming to be the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos' son, for allegedly selling fictitious gold-backed securities to an FBI undercover agent, a copy of a court document shows.

But Castro's son Solomon, who is in Manila, still refused to admit that his father had been arrested, although he mentioned that the elder Castro was brought to a hospital in New York after an "incident related to the complaint."

He would not elaborate when pressed, and said the case was in the hands of his father's American lawyers.

The son did say, however, that Castro was preparing to file forgery and false testimony charges against the FBI.

Sarmiento said the FBI, through the Philippine Consulate General in New York, had asked for the agency's cooperation in establishing the identity of Castro.

The Department of Foreign Affairs sent documents provided by the FBI to the PCGG yesterday morning, including a copy of a passport in Castro's name and the FBI

IT'S/ A16

Court junks Santiago suit vs Manoling

By Jerome Aning

SENATORIAL candidate Manuel Morato was yesterday cleared by a Manila regional trial court of a P4-million libel suit filed against him in 1994 by the husband of reelectionist Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

The libel case stemmed from Morato's statements on June 29, 1994, that Narciso Santiago Jr. and his wife had "started to 'fix' the media" in preparation for the 1995

COURT/ A16

SABI WALANG PRE-CONDITIONS...

Second FRONT PAGE

'NO PRE-CONDITIONS'

Gov't rejects Reds' terms

By Rocky Nazareno

CREDIT the Left for trying.

On the eve of peace talks with the government, the communist National Democratic Front has demanded the release of two of its members convicted of killing a US military official, the abrogation of a military pact with the Americans and the country's withdrawal from the World Trade Organization.

Government officials flatly rejected the NDF demands.

Peace talks between the two sides, which were cut short in 1999 over the passage of the Visiting Forces Agreement with the US, are set to resume in Oslo, Norway, on April 27.

President Macapagal-Arroyo's advisers rejected the demands during a Cabinet Cluster E meeting yesterday at the Department of Foreign Affairs. Cabinet Cluster E tackles political and national security concerns.

National Security Adviser Roilo Golez said the peace talks should proceed in Oslo as scheduled on Friday despite the government's answer to the NDF demands.

"We made it clear that there would be no pre-conditions," Golez told reporters.

Agrarian Secretary Hernani Braganza, a member of the government peace panel, said previous peace talks were conducted without pre-conditions and the policy would not be changed for the NDF.

The NDF is the umbrella organization of the Philippine Left which, with its armed unit the New People's Army, has been waging a 32-year Maoist insurgency against the government.

NDF negotiator Connie Ledesma said their group was to leave Manila late Monday for the Netherlands, before making the short trip to Oslo on Wednesday.

The government panel members are scheduled to leave on Wednesday.

Ledesma said communist party founder Jose Maria Sison would be joining the talks from the Netherlands.

The first round of the negotiations would likely focus on the "socio-economic reforms" that the group is asking from the government, Ledesma told Agence France Presse, without elaborating.

The two sides are to hold talks for "four to five days" after which they would decide where and when to hold further talks, according to government panel chair Silvestre Bello III.

Bello said the government would strive to "conclude each substantive issue within six months" to enable the two sides to meet their targeted settlement date of 18 months.

He said these issues include socio-economic reforms, human rights, political and constitutional reforms and the disposition of firearms.

Braganza said that while the government panel was "not ignoring anything but studying everything," it was wrong for the NDF to make it appear that its demands, like the release of Rowe's killers, were "pre-conditions" to the Oslo talks.

"This is in violation of the agreements with the past panel," he said. "They should not be doing this."

Chief rebel negotiator Luis Jalandoni said Sunday he expects the release of 40 political prisoners, including Rowe's killers Juanito Itaas and Danilo Continente, around the time the Oslo talks are scheduled to start.

Golez made it clear the government would not consent to "any pre-conditions."

"(The Oslo meeting) would be laying the groundwork for the main peace talks that would be held later," Golez said.

He described the NDF demands as "possible items" the government panel might calendar for later discussion. *With an AFP report*

NDF hits slay of coordinator of Buan release

THE KILLING of a Bayan Muna coordinator who assisted in the recent release of Army Maj. Noel Buan has been assailed by the National Democratic Front as an "act of bad faith" on the part of the government ahead of the Oslo peace talks.

NDF chief peace negotiator Luis Jalandoni said Ramon "Bong" Ternida, 20, Anakbayan youth chair in Oriental Mindoro, was stabbed dead by a policeman on April 15, nine days after the victim assisted in the release of Buan in Mansalay town.

Jalandoni noted that Ternida had been earlier mauled allegedly by Supt. Rodrigo Foja, chief for police intelligence in Oriental Mindoro, who is believed to be associated with the suspect in Ternida's death.

"This will be another test of the government's sincerity in the peace process," said Renato Reyes Jr., Anakbayan national chair.

Reyes also called for the relief of Foja to pave the way for a thorough investigation of the killing of Ternida.

Jalandoni said the resumption of peace talks would not stop the NPA from launching tactical offensives against "legitimate military targets."

It would also not stop the NPA from carrying out punishments against civilians tried by "people's courts" for various offenses like rape and drug trafficking.

Jalandoni said the NDF is willing to discuss with the government a bilateral ceasefire during the resumption of the talks, something which is missing from the agenda but which may be included in the early part of the negotiations. *Carlito Pablo*

Surigao cop chief shot dead

BUTUAN CITY—Suspected New People's Army rebels shot and killed the Surigao City police chief in Jabonga, Agusan del Norte, early yesterday morning.

Senior Supt. Alberto Olario, regional police chief, said the victim, Supt. Andres Santos, 49, was traveling to Surigao City from Jabonga when his car was stopped by four armed men at Barangay Bangunay around 5:30 a.m. yesterday.

An eyewitness said that when Santos lowered the car's window, three of the suspects pulled out their guns and began firing at him.

Dr Edgar Savilla, medico-legal officer of the National Bureau of Investigation here, said Santos died from multiple gunshot wounds.

Witness Dennis Bermudes, in an interview over dxBR Radyo Bombo here, said the suspects appeared to be still in their teens.

Emelda Corro, 45, Santos' live-in partner, told the INQUIRER that the scene of the ambush was only about 15 meters away from their residence. She said she only saw the assassins' backs.

Meanwhile, the alleged killer of reelectionist Mayor Lope Asis of Bayugan town in Agusan del Sur, surrendered to the police on Sunday.

Olario identified the suspect as Delgado Moncatay of Davao Oriental. He said Moncatay implicated SPO1 Alexander Manghanoy, a security escort of the then Vice Mayor Lorna Amora who is running for mayor in the Lakas-NUCD slate. She took over as mayor after Asis was killed.

Asis of the LDP-Pwersa ng Masa was killed on April 17 while campaigning in Barangay Cagbas.

The NPA initially claimed responsibility for the killing.

But Olario said that, based on the evidence and sworn statement of the suspect, Manghanoy was allegedly involved in the "planning and instigation of the crime."

The police yesterday filed murder charges against Moncatay, Manghanoy, Amora and four John Does.

In other election-related violence, mayoral candidate Oscar Torralba was shot and killed by suspected NPA rebels in La Paz, Agusan del Sur, last Sunday. Police said the victim had been talking with the suspects when he was shot. *Alden Pantaleon with reports from Chris Panganiban and Froilan Gallardo, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Comelec feud out in the open

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

THE BARELY concealed infighting within the Commission on Elections broke out into the open yesterday when one of the six commissioners reversed an order of chair Alfredo Benipayo dismissing the poll body's information chief.

Commissioner Mehol Sadain, who is in charge of the Comelec's media committee, issued a memorandum which effectively reinstated lawyer Ma. Angelina Matibag as head of the education and information department, reversing Benipayo's April 11 order for her relief.

Matibag herself had refused to heed Benipayo's order, confident of the support of Sadain and three other commissioners—Luzviminda Tancangco, Rufino Javier and Ralph Lantion.

In his memorandum, Sadain said Benipayo's order had no effect because it had been questioned by a majority of the commissioners and by a motion for reconsideration from Matibag, which has yet to be taken up by the en banc.

Benipayo quickly questioned Sadain's act, saying he had neither the authority nor power to overturn the chair's orders.

He accused Sadain, Tancangco, Javier and Lantion of trying to run the commission by defying his orders.

Two other commissioners, Rex Borra and Florentino Tuason Jr., are identified with Benipayo.

Benipayo conceded that while the en banc has quasi-judicial and quasi-legislative functions, the chair has the prerogative on operational matters and internal management, such as the transfer and assignment of personnel.

Benipayo said the commissioners had been so preoccupied with Matibag's relief that the en banc has not been able to take up numerous disqualification protests.

"They are not even here," he said.

An en banc meeting has been scheduled for 9 a.m. today but it was unclear if a quorum would be attained. *With reports from Mae Lorraine Rafols and Marionne Acabado*

Demetria's defense: Reasonable doubt

THE SUPREME Court did not have proof beyond reasonable doubt that he intervened in the case of a suspected woman drug trafficker when it ordered his dismissal from the Court of Appeals, Justice Demetrio Demetria has claimed.

Thus, Demetria said in a motion for reconsideration he filed before the SC the high tribunal should rethink its unanimous decision kicking him off the appellate court.

Demetria said the Office of the Ombudsman had investigated the same case and dismissed it.

The high court had ordered Demetria's dismissal and all his benefits forfeited after it concluded that he had aided Go Teng Kok, president of the Philippine Amateur Track and Field Association, in applying pressure on a prosecutor to go easy on drug suspect Yu Yuk Lai.

The tribunal said Demetria had attempted to dissuade chief state prosecutor Jovencito Zuño and senior state prosecutor Pablo Formaran from filing a motion inhibiting Manila Judge Manuel Muro from trying Yu's case.

Demetria explained he did so out of fear that assigning the case to yet another judge would unnecessarily delay the case against Yu.

Muro, he pointed out, was the fourth judge assigned to the case. *Cathy C. Yamsuan*

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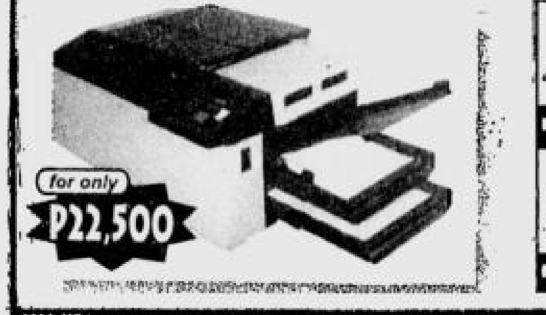
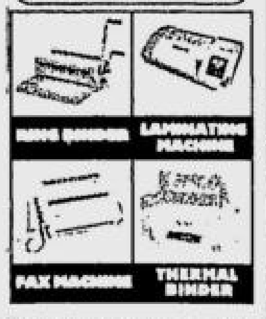
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JOB FAIR
Inquirer President Sandy Prieto-Rumualdez cuts the ceremonial ribbon with Rene Reinoso (right), senior vice president for Sales and Marketing and Pepito Olarte, vice president for Advertising, marking the start of Inquirer Job Market's three-day career fair at the Glorietta Activity Center.

Triple bypass for De Villa today

BY ARMAND N. NOCUM

EXECUTIVE Secretary Renato de Villa will go through a triple bypass operation at the Makati Medical Center today, Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao announced yesterday.

At the same time, Tiglao assured that President Macapagal-Arroyo was in good health despite reports that she had lost some 23 lbs recently.

In his first press briefing, Tiglao said he had talked yesterday with De Villa who appeared to be in "good spirits."

The 66-year-old De Villa was not at all apprehensive about the operation as bypass surgery is "practically a routine operation" nowadays, Tiglao said.

A noted United States-based Filipino heart surgeon, Dr. Jorge Garcia, will perform the surgery.

Tiglao said Garcia had recommended that it would be best for De Villa to undergo the bypass procedure tomorrow.

The Palace spokesperson said the Executive Secretary would be back on the job in about a month's time.

He confirmed that De Villa learned about his severe heart problem during a regular, check-up on Friday. He said De Villa had not felt any chest pains prior to the check-up.

CHINATOWN DEMAND

Tsinoys ask Gloria for Berroya's head

CHINESE-FILIPINO community leaders yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to remove Senior Supt. Reynaldo Berroya, the recently appointed police intelligence chief who was convicted of kidnapping a Taiwan businessman but later acquitted.

The leaders released an open letter criticizing the President for having appointed Berroya hours before Ms Macapagal was to hold a dialog with them.

On a visit to Chinatown whose residents are reported to be the staunchest supporters of former national police chief and Senate aspirant Panfilo Lacson Jr., the President sought to dispel the notion that the elite police unit that Lacson headed was their savior.

"The public is deliberately misled so that we do not know whom to trust and who to suspect," she said in a luncheon-dialogue with seven major Chinese-Filipino organizations in Binondo.

Without naming the Lacson-led Presidential Anti-organized Crime Task Force that she disbanded last week, the President said a number of kidnapping cases in recent years had been "stage-managed" by top police personnel in cahoots with criminal syndicates.

"The same gangs that kidnap your children sometimes also stage their rescue," she said. "How can you not be confused?"

Ms Macapagal also raised fears that with the power wielded by big-time drug lords, these criminal gangs may well be in a position to determine the outcome of elections in the country.

"They have corrupted our police, our criminal justice system and even the higher levels of government," she said.

"With the amount of money under their control, it is conceivable that they can even dictate the results of the elections," the President said.

The open letter said that Berroya's appointment was "the worst signal that can be given about the government's policy and attitude toward the kidnapping menace."

A lower court sentenced Berroya to life in July 1995 for the abduction of Taiwanese businessman Jack Chou, but the Supreme Court overturned the ruling in December 1997 on grounds that his guilt was not proven beyond reasonable doubt.

Berroya has consistently maintained he was innocent. *Armand N. Nocum, with a report from AFP*

Jolo father, son get rewards for Schilling rescue

TWO Finnish men who were among 21 hostages held by Abu Sayyaf extremists last year appealed yesterday for the last captive's release even as suspected members of the bandit group kidnapped a 31-year-old woman at gunpoint in Jolo at the weekend.

Yesterday a father and son were feted at a special ceremony at Camp Crame for their role in the successful rescue of American Jeffrey Schilling held for seven months by the extremists.

Police officer Hagim Abdani Timbang was promoted to the next higher rank and given P50,000. His son, Nidjman Timbang, was given P20,000 and a full scholarship at a Zamboanga City high school.

Another policeman, Asiri Inog Buklao, who with the elder Timbang is with the Luuk Police Station in Sulu, was also promoted and given a cash award.

Seppo Franti and Risto Vahanen of Helsinki made the appeal for the release of Filipino dive resort worker Roland Ullah exactly a year after they were snatched with 19 others and brought to Jolo jungle camps. All except Ullah were freed last year, reportedly in exchange for large ransoms.

"We know what it is like to lose your freedom, of being oppressed and living under constant fear for your life," Franti and Vahanen said in a statement sent to the Associated Press. "Now it is high time to end this ordeal for Roland."

AP, with a report from Mark David

Gordon: Tourists safe from Abus

TOURISM Secretary Richard J. Gordon yesterday said the military is after the Abu Sayyaf bandits and that unlawful acts that they continue to perpetuate are isolated.

Gordon clarified reports that Abu Sayyaf activities continue to be a threat to tourists in the Philippines.

"Tourists are safe in the country because we are not sending them to remote areas where the bandits operate," Gordon told participants of the Philippine Association of Secretaries' convention in Tagaytay.

"Our eight anchor destinations are ready to welcome and take care of our tourists. Most of the country is peaceful and the people, even at the grassroots, are preparing for an inflow of tourists," Gordon said.

Of the 1.6 million foreign tourists who came to the Philippines in 1999, only a negligible number visited Basilan and Jolo.

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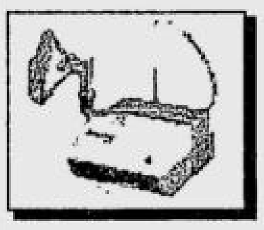

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Seminar	Dates	Days	Time
ACCOUNTING FOR NON-ACCOUNTANTS	April 28 – May 26, 2001	Saturday	1:00PM-4:00PM
SUPERVISORY DEVELOPMENT AND LEADERSHIP TRAINING	April 30 – May 11, 2001	M-W-F	6:00PM-8:00PM
MODERN PURCHASING MANAGEMENT	April 28, 2001	Saturday	1:00PM-5:00PM
PROFESSIONAL TELEPHONE SELLING	April 28, 2001	Saturday	1:00PM-5:00PM
DYNAMICS OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT	May 3 – 15, 2001	T-Th	6:00PM-9:00PM
HOW TO START A LUCRATIVE EXPORT BUSINESS	May 5 – 26, 2001	Saturday	9:00AM-12:00NN
DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE TRAINERS	May 3 – 15, 2001	T-Th	6:00PM-9:00PM
BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN IMPORT BUSINESS	May 5 – 19, 2001	Saturday	1:00PM-5:00PM
EFFECTIVE ORAL COMMUNICATION	April 30 - May 11, 2001	M-W-F	6:00PM-8:00PM
ASSERTIVENESS TRAINING	May 5, 2001	Saturday	1:00PM-5:00PM

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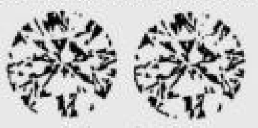

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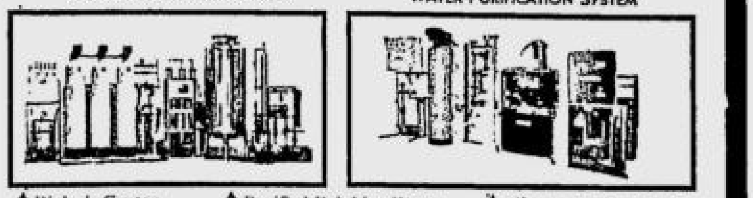

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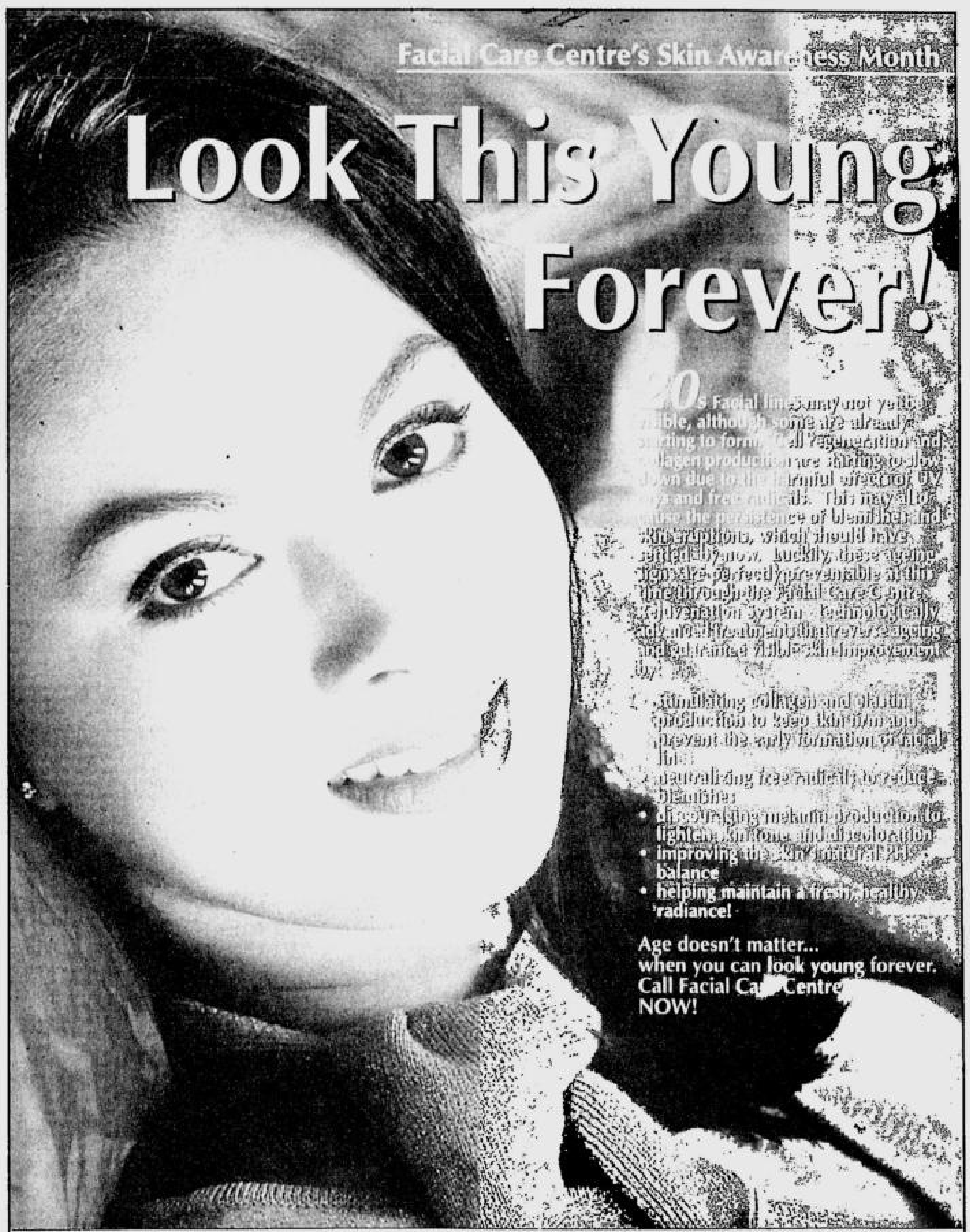

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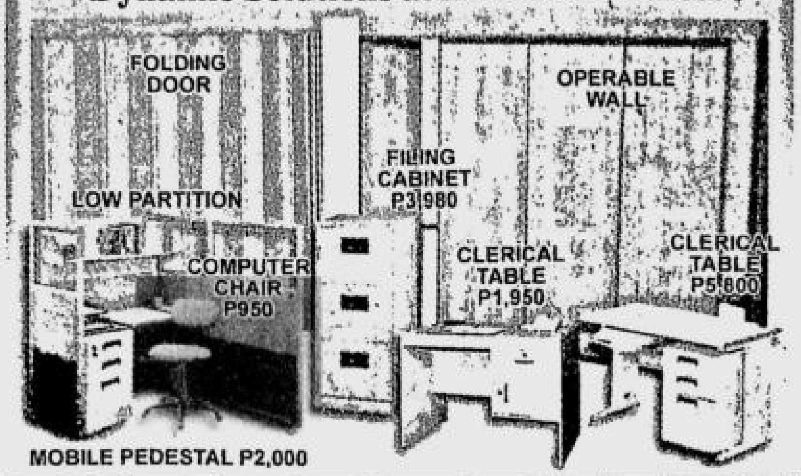

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Jinggoy 'bullshits' . . .

(From page A1)

composure saying "Don't curse us. We are in uniform. Besides, we have a verbal order to inspect your things before you board the plane."

"They almost came to blows if not for the intervention of cooler heads," the witness said, referring to Sotto, some members of the ASG and the Airport Police Department who pacified the pair.

In a statement issued by the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino-Puwersa ng Masa, Ejercito and her son claimed they were subjected to "intimidation tactics" by some 10 airport policemen and a vanload of SWAT members at the Subic Air hangar.

Quoting Mayor Estrada, the opposition said the PNP SWAT and the airport police inspected their baggage as well as the inside of their private plane without reason.

"They (airport police and the PNP SWAT) did not give any clear reason (for the search) despite the fact that the plane they were using was privately owned," the statement read.

Shortly after the airport incident, the young Estrada called his father, ousted President Joseph Estrada, by cellular phone to report.

"Daddy, *heto hina*-harass *kami* (we're being harassed here)," the mayor said.

Eventually, Estrada, the former first lady and Sotto were allowed to depart for General Santos City aboard a Falcon 10 Executive jet registered as RP-C1911, at 4:30 p.m.

Some 10 to 15 ASG personnel and five members of the APD were present when the incident happened at the hangar of Subic Air at the old Manila Domestic Airport at 4 p.m.

"Obviously, Jinggoy Estrada resented the manner by which their baggage were inspected," the witness said.

The witness, however, said that the passengers were never frisked.

Some staff members of the Air Transportation Office said the Estradas changed their flight schedules several times yesterday without citing any reason. *With a report from Dona Pazzibugan*

Erap owns gun . . .

(From page A1)

"It's been licensed to me since I was still a mayor," he said. "Why? What kind of spin are you putting on it this time? If you want, you can see the license yourself."

At a press forum yesterday at the Club Filipino, lawyer Raymond Fortun, a member of Estrada's defense team, said he had it from a "reliable source" that his client's life "is under threat."

But Renato Corona, President Macapagal-Arroyo's chief of staff, said Estrada needed not just a license for his gun but also a permit to carry from the Philippine National Police and a gun ban exemption from the Commission on Elections.

"If he has all three (documents), then I guess (carrying a gun) is OK," Corona said.

He said that even if Estrada had a permit to carry from the PNP, this was deemed suspended by the ban on firearms in connection with the election campaign. In which case, he added, Estrada needed a certificate of exemption from the Comelec.

Ms Macapagal's newly appointed spokesperson, Rigoberto Tiglao, said it was "beyond decorum" for Estrada to carry a gun during his birthday tour.

"To even have a gun at his feet—that reflects much on a former president's character," Tiglao said.

Last Thursday, Estrada was caught on camera about to alight from a van, with the holstered pistol on the vehicle's floor next to his left foot.

The photo came out on the front page of the Manila Standard the next day.

When the INQUIRER brought the photo to the attention of Jesus Crispin Remulla, Estrada's legal spokesperson, he aired the assumption that the gun belonged to the ex-president's driver-bodyguard that day and had only been "misplaced" on Estrada's side of the vehicle.

Estrada may have been ousted from the presidency, but he still enjoys the privilege of being escorted by members of the Presidential Security Group.

QCRB Inaugurates Corporate Offices

MB Member Salazar and Gov. Enverga Lead Guests at the Blessing of City's Newest Landmark

LUCENA CITY - The **QUEZON CAPITAL RURAL BANK, Inc.** (QCRB) inaugurates today its new Corporate Offices at the **GARCIA CORPORATE TOWER**, located at the corner of Rizal and Granja Streets, this city. The ten-storey building is the newest in the whole of Quezon Province with the latest state-of-the-art construction design and architecture. Constructed jointly with **Queblar Realty Corporation** which owns the lot, the Tower will house on the top floors the Corporate Offices of the bank, principally consisting of the Board of Directors, the Chairman, the Corporate Secretary, the Legal Counsel, the Corporate Planning Department, the Human Resources Department and the Internal Audit. At the ground floor is the bank's **Corporate Tower Branch**, also scheduled to be formally inaugurated today.

The program starts at 10:30 a.m. with the ceremonial cutting of ribbons headed by Mrs. **Milagros Z. Garcia** and Mrs. **Iluminada C. Alcala**, President and Senior Vice-President of QCRB respectively. They will be assisted by Governor **Wilfrido L. Enverga** and Mayor **Ramon Y. Talaga, Jr.** Blessing of the edifice will be officiated by **Bishop Ruben T. Profugo**, assisted by **Msgr. Oscar I. Leaño** . Among the principal sponsors are Cong. and Mrs. **Marcial Punzalan, Jr.**, Vice-Governor and Mrs. **Jovito Talabong**, Vice-Mayor and Mrs. **Raymundo Adormeo**, Executive Judge **Virgilio Alpajora** and Engr. & Mrs. **Carlito Villapando**, Mr. & Mrs. **Willie P. Alquiros**, Mr. & Mrs. **Ricardo Pascua** and Mr. & Mrs. **Benny Brizuela.**

Invited to highlight the occasion are Monetary Board Member **Melito S. Salazar, Jr.** of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas and officials from the Department of Rural Banks headed by Director **Wilfredo B. Domo-ong.** Other guests include QCRB's partners and correspondent banks in Lucena, among them **Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.** (RCBC) and **Maybank, Phils., Inc.** which serve as the Clearing Banks in the checking account operations of QCRB. Moreover, on the same occasion, the bank will host a joint meeting of the **Lucena Bankers Club** and **Quezon Federation of Rural Banks** with BSP Monetary Board Member Melito S. Salazar, Jr. and Director Wilfredo B. Domo-ong as keynote speaker and resource person respectively. A dialogue among the member banks will ensue after the meeting.

Guest list also includes the principal suppliers and partners in the construction of the building, the bank's insurance providers, some officials of the Quezon Chamber of Commerce and various Rotary Clubs of District 3820. They will be joined by the stockholders, valued clients, patrons and key offficers of the bank.

PROGRAM

PART I

RECEPTION	
RIBBON-CUTTING :	
1. CORPORATE TOWER BRANCH	**Ms. ILUMINADA C. ALCALA** *Senior Vice-President, QCRB* **Hon. RAMON Y. TALAGA JR.** *Mayor, Lucena City*
2. GARCIA CORPORATE TOWER	**Ms. MILAGROS Z. GARCIA** *President, QCRB* **Hon. WILFRIDO L. ENVERGA** *Governor, Quezon Province*
BLESSING - *to be officiated by*	**Most Rev. RUBEN T. PROFUGO, D.D.** *Bishop of Lucena City* **Msgr. OSCAR I. LEAÑO, H.P.** *St. Ferdinand Parish*

PART II

WELCOME ADDRESS	**Atty. JOSE S. LAURELES** *Director/Legal Counsel, QCRB*
INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS	**Mr. ALEXANDER M. CALMA** *Exec. Vice-President/COO, QCRB*
SPECIAL PRESENTATION	
INTRODUCTION OF GUEST OF HONOR	**Dr. CIRIACO AM. CARAOS** *Treasurer, QCRB*
MESSAGE	**Hon. WILFRIDO L. ENVERGA** *Governor, Quezon Province*
INTRODUCTION OF GUEST OF HONOR	**Atty. MEDARDO B. MEDENILLA** *Corporate Secretary, QCRB*
MESSAGE	**Hon. MELITO S. SALAZAR, JR.** *Member, Monetary Board* *Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas*
CLOSING REMARKS	**Atty. LEANDRO P. GARCIA** *Chairman of the Board, QCRB*
LUNCHEON	

MASTER OF CEREMONIES:
Atty. EDWARD LEANDRO Z. GARCIA
Asst. Corp. Secretary, QCRB

HON. MELITO S. SALAZAR, JR.
Member, Monetary Board
Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

HON. WILFRIDO L. ENVERGA
Governor, Quezon Province

ATTY. LEANDRO P. GARCIA
Chairman of the Board, QCRB

Brief History of QCRB

Quezon Capital Rural Bank (QCRB) evolved out of a predicament. Rural Banking, then void in the provincial capital of Quezon, had to be filled to provide reliable financial sevices to the community's small farmers, fishermen, traders and other enterprising individuals. Therefore, immediately after the 1972 Constitutional Convention, two of the Delegates of the province - CPA-Lawyer Leandro P. Garcia and Banker Gil G. Puyat, Jr., President and Chairman respectively, spearheaded the Bank's incorporation. Atty. Medardo B. Medenilla who facilitated the organizational process, became its Corporate Secretary.

Mrs. Iluminada C. Alcala (wife of then Quezon Governor Anacleto C. Alcala) as Vice President; Businessman Remigio C. Bautista as Treasurer; Dr. Sonia I. Garcia (wife of then Judge Efren P. Garcia) and Dr. Emeterio Calayan, Jr. as Board Members, completed QCRB's Charter Board.

On January 29, 1974, QCRB opened its doors to business, with noted commercial lawyer Atty. Jose S. Laureles as its first General Manager. The bank was then housed in a rented edifice in the heart of the city's commercial district, at the corner of Merchan and Juarez streets, Lucena City. On June 15, 1980, QCRB moved to its present site on its own building at the corner of Perez and Recto streets, which is strategically located within the enclave of the seat of the Provincial Government of Quezon.

QCRB: Today

After 27 years, QCRB is not only an institution but also a big family. It continues to uphold its tradition of conservatism with progressiveness because there lies its strength. The people that guard the rampart of the organization are its greatest assets. Management has focused its efforts on the continuous improvement of its people. The trust the public has reposed in it is the moving spirit of its existence and sustained growth.

In its desire to bring banking services even to the remotest towns of Quezon, QCRB has embarked on a serious expansion program. Since its establishment in 1974, twenty-one branches were opened all over the province including another one in the neighboring province of Laguna.

With twenty-two operating units including its Head Office, expansion plans are still being pursued.

Over the years, QCRB has adopted a policy that we may aptly call client-friendly. In fact, last year it was among the first banks to lower its interest rates in loans when the state of the economy showed positive signs of recovery. It has also consistently followed a no foreclosure policy except in extremecases when it needed to protect its interest. QCRB believes that in extending credit to clients, it is mainly for helping. So much so that even in times of crises, it continuous to lend a helping hand as long as it is still manageable and sustainable. Above all, QCRB looks at the social relevance and dimensions of policies and practices as a fulfillment of its mission.

Among the top 7,000 corporations in terms of gross income for the year 2000 published by the Philippine Business Profiles and Perspectives, Inc., QCRB ranked 4,417th. Among the more than 800 rural banks, it ranked 12th and has grown reasonably in resources even during the financial crisis.

With the present authorized capital stock of P70 Million, its is projected that the bank will reach the P1 Billion mark in resources by the year 2003.

QCRB is attuned to national government programs. It has allocated and invested its share to causes such as education, small- scale agri-agra loans and alternative investments like low-cost housing. It has lent support to entities like the **Cotta Realty Corporation** on their low-cost housing program and the **Enverga University Foundation** in the field of education. The bank grants salary loans to DECS teachers thru computerized payroll deduction scheme. It also acts as paying agent of **UniTeller Filipino** for money remittances from abroad.

The present Board remains solid and united over the years. Mrs. Iluminada Alcala, matriach of the big Alcala clan, one of the incorporators and has been the Vice-President since, has always provided the spiritual and moral ascendancy for its mission.

Atty. Jose S. Laureles, the first General Manager when it was established on January 29, 1974, has given impetus for a true and honest management approach in rural banking. Now as President of Enverga University Foundation, he has lent credence and legal expertise towards the right direction.

Atty. Medardo B. Medenilla has served as Corporate Secretary since the birth of the organization. He has been providing all these years the social dimension that is needed by a family as an institution. His concern for every member of the organization, from top to bottom is unequivocal.

The Treasurer, Dr. Ciriaco A. Caraos , and the Executive Vice-President, Alexander M. Calma, are dedicated to financial viability and growth of the bank. Mr. Calma has evolved to a management style of "service above self" while still providing profit and sustainability for QCRB.

Atty. Leandro P. Garcia with his wife Milagros, have envisioned the establisment of QCRB in 1972-73 and have since provided the vision and the mission to play a role in the financial development of Quezon Province. Even through the turbulent years of the country's history, Atty. Garcia remained focused on the need for industry, perseverance and sacrifice for a better future of the next generation.

The Next Generation

Since its 25th year, the organizers and pioneers of QCRB has been preparing the younger generation on leadership in pursuing the banks mission and vision. Among the next generation are their children:

Atty. Edward Leandro Z. Garcia, Jr. has since 1995, when he passed the bar, served as Assistant Corporate Secretary and Legal Counsel. He also heads the Corporate Planning Division. Edward "Jun-Jun" has previously worked as Legislative Assistant in the Senate for then Senator Edgardo Angara and as Legislative Liaison Officer in the Department of Education, Culture and Sports. He is a partner in the law firm David, Garcia, Feliciano, Gatmaitan and David.

Analumen C. Alcala, youngest daughter of former Governor and Mrs. Alcala, is Vice-President of Loans and Discounts. She joined QCRB in 1993 and had since faithfully learned and grown in her job. A former professor at the Enverga University, she commands the respect of her peers and friends. She is the Incoming President of the Rotary Club of Lucena - University District.

Ferdinand "Boyet" Z. Garcia is Vice-President for Branch Operations. His wife Michaela of Bulacan, a graduate of Psychology , is the company's consultant in Human Resources Management. They have a four-year-old daughter, Mika. Boyet is also President of Eterna Development and Management Corporation, owner-developer of St. Ignatius Memorial Park in Lucena City. He is also Director-Treasurer and Administrator of Queblar Realty Corporation, General Manager of Ferma G. Corporation, Director and Officer of UTLI, All Quezon Club and other allied corporations. He is a past President of the Rotary Club of Lucena Central.

Medardo C. Laureles is the only son of Atty. & Mrs. Jose S. Laureles. Married to Ruby, with three children, Medardo has worked as Junior Executive in a first class hotel for more than nine years in South Africa. He has gained experience in management of a multi-national corporation before he joined QCRB in 1997. Today he serves as Senior Branch Manager assigned to the Corporate Tower Branch with supervision over neighboring branches.

The latest recruit is Pinky S. Caraos, daughter-in-law of Dr. & Mrs. Ciruco Caraos. She serves as Cashier of the Corporate Tower Branch. Before joining QCRB she worked in the United States for over a year in various capacities.

Among the pioneers of the more than 200 personnel of QCRB are : Evelyn B. Saculles, Vice-President for Cash and Properties; Lourdes D. Bontia, Vice-President for Accounting; Edna F. Aguilar, Manager of Lucena Main; Nelfa C. Reyes, Assistant Manager of Sariaya Branch and Flocerpida B. Gamo, Cashier of Candelaria Branch.

In this next generation's hand and minds lies the future of an institution. Where their parents have guided, guarded and led QCRB to its 27 years, it is quite safe to say that they are being taught well. A sweet fruit seed planted carefully and nurtured properly will bear fruits just as sweet. Moreover, efforts built on values and good intentions are never wasted. With these in mind, QCRB continues to move forward in its right path.

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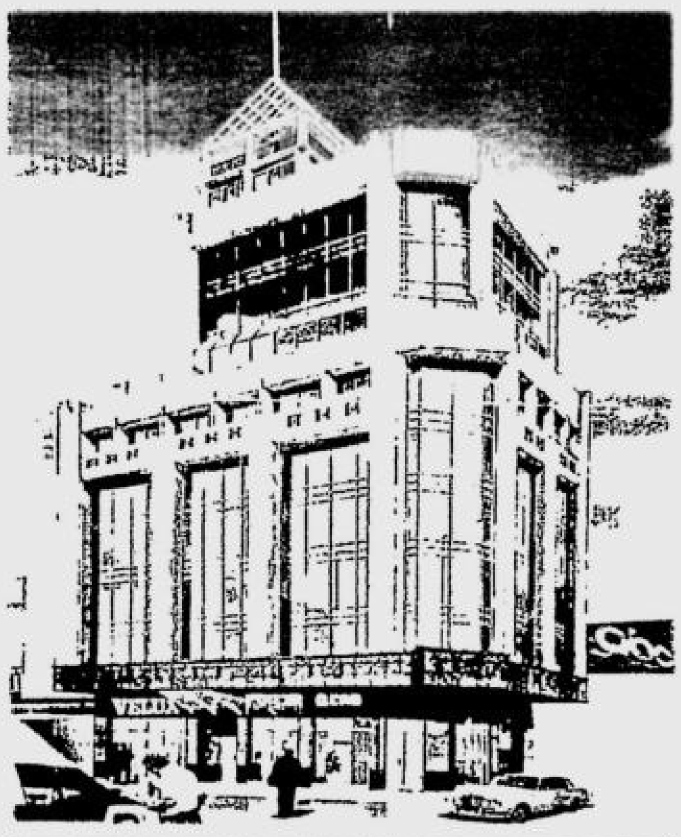

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The Queblar Realty Corporation

The Garcia family wholly owns this corporation. It is engaged primarily in constructing buildings. The Garcia Corporate Tower, a glory of a landmark now in Lucena City is its first project.

Located at the heart of the city, the ten-floor Tower is made of reinforced concrete with tempered blue reflective curtain wall glass windows with accent of modern aluminum claddings. The ground floor and the columns were finished with imported polished granite.

It houses branches of the **Loyola Life Plans, Inc.** on the fifth floor; **All Asia Life** on the fourth floor and **Standard Insurance** on the second floor. The third and sixth floors will house an Internet Cafe and computer offices with website facilities. The penthouse tower will provide for modern antennae system in support of the need for contemporary communication arts and technology. The ground floor has a boutique, cell-phone and communication equipments shop, office supplies store and a foreign currency exchange center. The seventh floor will have a restaurant, bar and a conference room for the **All Quezon Club, Inc.**, an exclusive membership club for executives of Lucena and Quezon Province.

Construction was made possible through the combined expertise of notable architects and engineers. Among them were Arch. Darwin Vasquez, Engr. Telesforo Peña on structural, Rodel Cademia on sanitary, Filbert Tañada and Benedict Sy on electrical, and Joey Orlanda as Project Engineer. Nationally renowned Arch. Mauricio Garcia and visiting Arch. Venancio Zoleta of Chicago, USA served as consultants. On structural, Engr. Remigio Ortiz of Manila and Cebu was consulted. The Project Manager is Ferdinand Z. Garcia, Vice-President for Branch Operations of QCRB.

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EVERYTHING NICE

Land, air, sea security teams ready for Estrada arrest

(From page A1)

would be jailed.

"*Wala akong pinipili at hindi ko muna iniisip 'yan* (I'm not choosy but I don't think about it yet)," he told the INQUIRER on the phone when asked about his thoughts on the government's three possible detention cells for him should the Sandiganbayan order him arrested on charges of plunder.

"They (government) started building my jail even before the Supreme Court issued its ruling (on the legitimacy of the Arroyo administration)," he said, referring to the five-hectare detention site at the PNP Special Action Forces training center in Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

"What does that mean? That they have preempted the (Supreme Court) decision?" he said.

"I've not even thought of choosing (my detention cell). Can they really arrest me, even if for a capital offense that is not bailable, if the evidence is weak?" he said.

In a prepared statement, though, Estrada said he was "ready to go to jail, but I cannot accept the unjust implementation of the law by a government that has not been elected by the people."

In an interview, Raymond Fortun, one of Estrada's lawyers, said "we will voluntarily surrender our client" should an arrest warrant be issued by the Sandiganbayan's 3rd Division, which is hearing the plunder charge. Estrada has already posted bail for the other graft cases filed against him by the Ombudsman.

"We are trying to condition his mind into thinking that this (arrest and incarceration) is going to happen in the near future," he said.

Estrada has not exactly packed anything yet, but he is just "being prepared physically and emotionally" for this "worst-case" scenario, Fortun said.

Lantion disclosed that top police officials led by Director General Leandro Mendoza, the PNP chief, and Director Rex Piad, chief of the directorial staff, would first escort the ousted President to the Sandiganbayan and then to his detention cell.

A helicopter gun ship will hover above while mobile police patrols bring Estrada to the Sandiganbayan and eventually to his prison cell.

As the convoy reaches the coastal areas of Baclaran, Parañaque and Cavite the maritime group of the PNP will cruise alongside it at the Manila Bay. Another maritime team will be deployed at the Laguna de Bay.

The maritime escort would come in handy if the police finally decided to detain Estrada in Laguna, according to Lantion.

"We can't take any chances. We have to completely secure the former President," Lantion said. "We have to make sure the land, sea and air are secure from any possible threat or attempt on the life of Estrada."

This early, all roads leading to the Sandiganbayan on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City and to the detention center have been cleared of possible security threats, according to Lantion.

Police intelligence units and police dogs had been deployed at strategic buildings that could be used either by snipers or by persons out to plant bombs, Lantion said.

But Fortun said it would be safer to place Estrada under house arrest.

He said the defense team was ready to bring to the Supreme Court its request to have Estrada placed under house arrest.

Fortun cited three reasons for the request:

- That it will "ensure his safety and security. We all know that there are people who would be interested in implementing and executing the penalty for the crime of plunder:"
- That "respect and courtesy must be accorded to somebody who used to occupy the Office of the President;
- That "the law doesn't prohibit placing a person under house arrest. Since it is not prohibited, we may actually ask for it from the court."

In General Santos City, People Power Coalition senatorial candidate Joker Arroyo said he wouldn't mind if Estrada was given "comfortable accommodations" when he is arrested and detained.

But the Kilusang Mayo Uno (KMU) warned that militant groups would organize mass actions similar to those of the anti-Estrada protests if the Macapagal administration extended special treatment to Estrada in prison.

"No criminal deserves any special treatment, much more a former President who committed high crimes and betrayed the nation's trust," said Felix Irag, KMU-Southern Mindanao secretary general. ***With reports from AFP; Jowel F. Canuday and Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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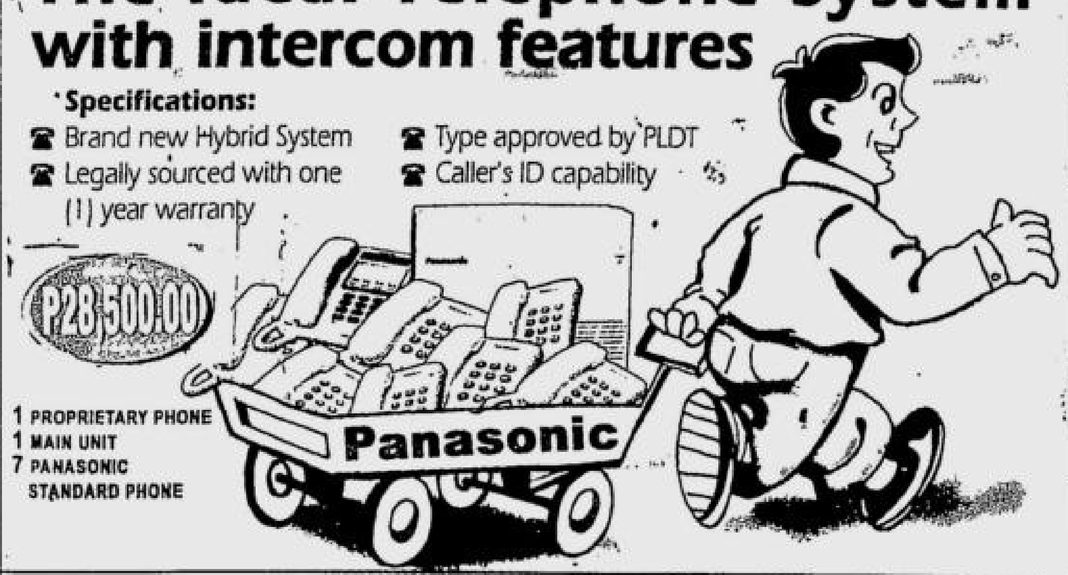

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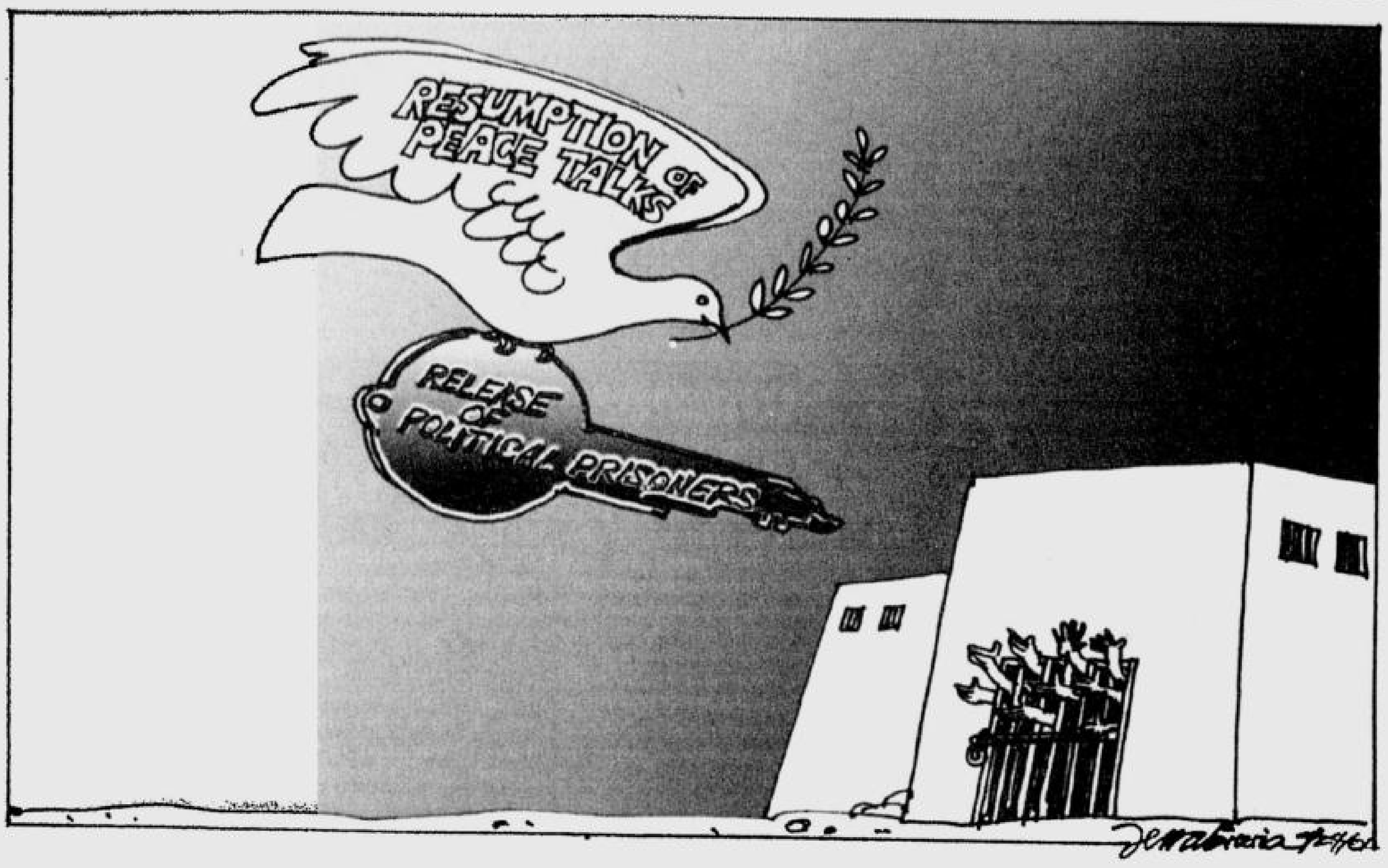

More equal than others

EDITORIAL

EVERBODY is supposed to be equal before the law, but it appears that even in the matter of jail accommodation, former government officials and other VIPs are more equal than the others. For instance, the equivalent of a four- or five-star hotel accommodation would be given to a deposed president; three- or four-star lodgings to a senator (should one be jailed in the future) or congressman; two-star to governors, mayors and assorted VIPs; and one-star to children and other relatives of officials.

Article III, Section 1 of the Constitution has an equal protection clause. This simply means that whatever privileges are given to one person should be given to all other persons in the same category. This means that a former president, former congressman or former mayor should not enjoy special privileges while in jail.

If plans are carried out, deposed President Joseph Estrada will get special privileges once he is detained while facing trial for plunder. Three alternative prison facilities are being prepared for him. These are a cell at the PNP's Special Action Forces Training and Seminar Center in Silang, Cavite; the Camp Crame detention area; and the Camp Bagong Diwa prison facilities in Bicutan.

According to reports, the amenities of the jail are similar to those of a four- or five-star hotel. It would have an air-conditioned room, a private toilet, a receiving area and a private exercise yard. While they are at it, why not throw in a jacuzzi, a swimming pool with Boracay white sand around it, a barbershop, a massage room and a music room?

The amenities should befit a former president, Interior Secretary Jose Lina said. If that is so, then let's not scrimp on the amenities for a former president—let us go the whole hog. After all, it is only the people, whose money he is accused of stealing, who will spend for all these comforts.

There are precedents for the special treatment that would be given to ousted President Estrada. Rep. Romeo Jalosjos, who is serving two life terms for statutory rape, stayed in an air-conditioned room and slept on a soft double bed until these four-star amenities were discovered by justice officials. He had to move to a smaller cell with just an electric fan, but he had it repainted and tiled to his taste.

In February 1999 the Department of Justice also discovered that Jalosjos was slowly turning the prison grounds into a "country club" complete with a tennis court, a hamburger stand, a "condominium unit" and a special bathroom with a shower and heater. We wonder if the congressman is still enjoying these amenities today.

The receiving room being prepared for deposed President Estrada has its precedent in Jalosjos' receiving room. While serving his sentence in prison, Jalosjos was elected to another term in the House of Representatives and he is allowed to receive visitors and transact government business. But the case of Estrada may be different since the Supreme Court has ruled that he is no longer the sitting president.

Other prison VIPs like former Mayor Antonio Sanchez, a murder and rape convict; and Rolito Go and Claudio Teehankee Jr., murder convicts, have made their cells more comfortable by furnishing them with electric appliances, cushioned beds, good lighting and other luxurious amenities.

We do not know if justice and prison officials have drawn up policies or rules governing VIP prisoners like Jalosjos, Sanchez, Go, Teehankee and others. Prison Superintendent Gregorio Agalo-os said in 1999: "We don't know whether to treat Jalosjos as an elected congressman or a prisoner. We're asking the justice department for a policy." If a policy has not been laid down, then it's high time such a policy was adopted and announced.

Why is special treatment being proposed for the ousted president? Lina said that Estrada might be harmed in a congested prison like the Quezon City jail. A detainee who wants to achieve notoriety and make history might make an attempt on Estrada's life. This could plunge the nation again into a period of insecurity and instability.

We endorse the plan to keep the disgrace leader in a separate detention cell, if only to preserve the security and stability of the nation. The cell should preferably be in a remote place, inaccessible to for-hire demonstrators who could create a lot of problems for the police. But the cell should approximate, as much as possible, the conditions in a regular detention cell. For instance, no air-conditioning and no bath with hot and cold water. Let him experience some of the discomforts and deprivations that an ordinary detainee suffers. The experience might be good for his soul.

Can't we be serious about dispensing justice?

COMMENTARY

Wilfrido V. Villacorta, Ph.D.

EXPLOITING the mood of the Holy Week, one of the lawyers of Joseph Estrada likened his client to the crucified Christ. His obscene remark sought to capitalize on the "*pusong mamon*" of the Filipino. If the lawyer were to have his way, he would want the Filipino people to emulate the typical battered wife who, after having been beaten to a pulp, remains receptive to her husband's repeated assurance of love and promise to change himself.

The prosecution of Estrada constitutes the supreme test for Philippine democracy. Shall we perform less creditably than the "newer" democracies? The Yugoslav government managed to arrest its former president, Slobodan Milosevic, despite resistance from hundreds of his fanatical followers. Indonesia and Chile placed Suharto and Augusto Pinochet under house arrest, notwithstanding their advanced age and claimed illnesses. The courts in South Korea sentenced and imprisoned former strongmen, Chun Doo-hwan and Roh Tae-woo, oblivious of their military connections.

Shall we succumb again to our excessively forgiving and tolerant nature? We have yet to deserve our reputation as the bastion of Asian democracy. Let us not bask in the glory of our two people power uprisings. The fact that our people had to take the law into their hands twice in the past 15 years is not a cause for celebration. The readiness of millions to embrace risks to defend their rights and freedoms is a tribute to the courage and commitment of Filipinos, but not to the quality of democratic governance in our country.

The real test is the dispensation of justice, which reinforces the legitimacy of a democracy. For it is supposed to be in a democracy that justice is best served, without fear or favor. The success of a civilized and free society lies in its ability to enforce the laws, in the accountability of its government and in the effective functioning of its courts. Unpunished violations of the law, particularly by plundering officials, undermine faith in democracy and its avowed egalitarian ideals. They accelerate crime, bleed the nation's coffers and drive away investments.

In the Global Forum on Fighting Corruption held in Washington, D.C. in February 1999, it was the consensus that corruption is the worst enemy of democracy, because democracy thrives on trust, and corruption corrodes public trust. Its principal victims are the weak: the children and the poor.

In his keynote address in last year's symposium of the Independent Commission against Corruption, Hong Kong's Chief Justice Andrew Li stressed that addressing the challenge of corruption requires a sound legal framework, an effective enforcement agency, an independent judiciary to uphold the rule of law, and a supportive community. Public-service ethics, which represents the collective conscience of any democracy, prevails if the judicial system upholds such ethics. In Hong Kong and Singapore, which have the lowest incidence of corruption in Asia, social ostracism also plays an important role. Public shame that results from conviction has been a major deterrent to corruption.

In handling plunder cases, Justice Barry O'Keefe of the Supreme Court of New South Wales of Australia believes that the confidence of the community in the fairness of process and outcomes is extremely important. "Once a conviction is recorded, appropriate sentences are essential for community confidence; raising judicial awareness is important in this regard," he said. The expeditious dispensation of justice is necessary for a country's economic recovery. Perceptions of unmitigated corruption pose obstacles to its economic stability and undermine its ability to succeed in the global economy.

This is an important consideration ,especially now that investor-countries and international financial institutions regard corruption as an essential factor in their business dealings. The Bribery Convention was signed in 1997 by industrialized member states of the Organization for Economic and Cooperation Development (OECD). The International Monetary Fund has framed a code of fiscal transparency which holds governments accountable for their expenditures, while the World Bank has strengthened its own international anti-corruption systems. The United States, which has passed the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act, is sensitive to governments that are known to be corrupt.

Guaranteeing the swift and fair administration of justice to grafters is, therefore, not only a moral obligation of governments. It has become a political expediency as well as an economic imperative in this globally competitive age. This gives us more reason not to allow cunning lawyers and politicians to get another public enemy off the hook.

Wilfrido Villacorta, Ph. D., is a professor at the De La Salle University and was a delegate to the 1986Constitutional Commission.

Mr. Wisely

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

A friend of mine once told me this story. In 1987 they went around the slums of Del Monte campaigning. But they were not campaigning for any particular candidate, they were campaigning for an idea. That idea was New Politics. The Edsa Revolution was just a little more than a year old, and my friend and his group believed the elections, the first free one to be held in a decade and a half, offered an excellent opportunity not just to get people to vote for the Edsa heroes but to enlighten them about the possibilities of the new world.

They went to the markets especially where the crowds gathered, and spoke through bullhorns about the virtues of New Politics. But it was all they could do to make their purpose understood. In the course of their discourse, people would ask whom they were campaigning for, and they would say again and again, "*Wala po*." The personalities were unimportant, they said, the really important thing was that people stopped voting for *trapos* (the word had just been coined then). Those *trapos* were to be found not just in GAD, the post-Edsa version of KBL, but even in Aquino's party as well.

Remember, my friend and his group told their audience, "New Politics." That was the wave of the future.

When the votes were counted in May of that year, my friend was surprised to learn that some voters in various parts of Metro Manila, including Del Monte, voted for New Politics for senator.

That is a true story. I am not so sure about the one that says the one nuisance candidate they have not been able to get rid of is Mr. Wisely. To this day, they say, people keep voting for him, even though he is not registered with the Commission on Elections. The reason for it being the posters that Mr. Wisely has somehow been able to put up in the most conspicuous places all over the country, the ones that say, "Vote Wisely."

I say all this not to discourage people, the youth especially, from valiantly attempting to improve the way Filipinos vote through all sorts of voter education campaigns. I say this only as a reality check, to encourage people to carry out campaigns like this with some street wiseness, if not humor. I am glad to read in the e-mail about the efforts of several groups to conduct voter education. I am especially glad to see the TV stations embarking on the same enterprise with exceptional zeal. People Power II hasn't died, the embers still burn brightly all around, not least in the explosion of idealism these campaigns represent.

I particularly like ABS-CBN's version, the one with the picture of a girl with the sign "Vote for Me." It has strong emotional resonance. It cuts deep into the heart of local culture. Nothing like appealing to Filipinos to think of their children, to sacrifice for their children, to do what is right for their children. The most *barumbado* driver will turn cautious when he has his family in his jeep. The most resolute drunk and gambler will turn remorseful when he sees his children starving. The most impoverished man will go into debt to get a son or daughter to elementary school.

There's just one thing about these voter education campaigns I'm bothered about. Which is their assumption that it is only the *masa* that need educating. That is never explicitly articulated, but it is imbedded in suggestions that we have to make the *masa* realize the elections aren't just for the rich, they are for them too. They are not just for the future of the children of the rich, they are for the future of their children too. And so they must vote for the deserving candidate and not just the one who is popular or entertaining.

I am not so sure only the *masa* need to be told that. The people who tried desperately to convince me to endorse Erap in 1998 were not the *masa*, they were variously scholars, politicians, businessmen, NGO people, civic leaders, friends from Makati villages. All of them thought he was dumb enough to be influenced, or controlled, by them. The scholars and NGO people thought in the direction of taking nationalist and pro-people policies, the politicians and businessmen thought in the direction of liberalizing the economy and pushing for globalization, the civic leaders and friends from Makati thought in the direction of uniting the country and ending strife and bloodshed. All of them were wrong. Erap ended up being influenced, or controlled, only by Lucio Tan and a group of gambling, womanizing and boozing gangsters who appropriately got to be called the "midnight Cabinet."

It is not the *masa* who are most affected by surveys, it is the rich and middle class. I don't know that the *masa* understand surveys, or care about them at all, to begin with. It is not the *masa* who will tell you not to vote for a particular candidate because he is nowhere to be found in the surveys. It is not the *masa* who will tell you that to vote for a candidate like that, though deserving, is to **waste** your vote. It is the "pragmatic" rich and middle class that will tell you that. I don't know if that is less cynical than just selling your vote. It is at least something Mr. Wisely cannot approve of.

But that is a minor quibble. Those voter education campaigns do produce results, however in ways we do not normally expect. The "popular educators" who went out to the markets more than a decade ago rather naively from hindsight campaigning for no candidate in particular may not have gotten many people to remember New Politics—other than those who voted for him—but they got a whole country to remember the word "*trapo*." Which became a kiss of death for Doy Laurel, Ramon Mitra and Jose de Venecia in the years that followed. Indeed, which has become a kiss of death for many candidates who still insist on guns, goons and gold in various parts of the country. I for one do not believe that nothing changes, or improves, in Philippine elections.

I can only hope though that we do not put up too many posters that say "Vote Quickly" in lieu of "Vote Wisely" to encourage better voter turnout. Or else Zagu's rival may soon find itself in the halls of Congress.

32 folders of evidence vs Erap

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto, the man on the spot in the cases against former President Joseph Estrada, is getting it from all sides. On the one hand, he is being criticized for having dropped several cases against Estrada, with his accusers saying it's intended to delay his prosecution. On the other hand, there are those who accuse Desierto of railroading Erap's imprisonment even as he has failed until now to prosecute former President Ramos in the Centennial Expo scam. Desierto has said that dropping several cases against Erap would strengthen the plunder case and prevent his lawyers from citing double jeopardy. I can see his point, though it is regrettable that the move looks like a case of *urong-sulong*, eroding public confidence in the Ombudsman.

* * *

I heard Desierto explain over radio recently that the reason he hasn't moved on the Centennial Expo case is that the Commission on Audit, which has investigative jurisdiction over that case since it involved realignment of funds, has not submitted its report until now. Desierto explained that the COA is an independent constitutional agency and he can only request it to hurry up its report, so that he will have a basis for deciding whether or not to prosecute Ramos.

In the plunder case against Erap, Desierto said he has all the evidence he needs—32 folders of evidence submitted to the Sandiganbayan.

Desierto said the overwhelming evidence against Erap was the product of the impeachment process as well as the efforts of public and private prosecutors. He specifically mentioned Joker Arroyo and Bobby Tañada, who are now both running for the Senate, and private prosecutors Simeon Marcelo, now the solicitor general, and UE College of Law dean Amado Valdez, now the newly appointed government corporate counsel. One might say, *malas lang si Erap*.

* * *

Abraham "Baham" Mitra, 31, is running for Congress in Palawan's first district, the seat from which his late father, former Speaker Monching Mitra, was propelled to national politics, against former Natural Resources Minister Teddy Peña. The Mitra-Peña fight has caught the country's attentions since Monching's son and political heir wants to capture his old seat against his longtime rival. Baham recently called me up from Brooks Point and he sounded quite confident of winning. The youngest of Monching and Cecile Mitra's six handsome sons is the heartthrob of young female voters, but he also tugs at the heart-strings of the older voters who still feel sentimental about his father. At the moment he can't seem to satisfy the demand for his presence in the various barangays of rugged Palawan.

He has one problem though, says Baham. His opponent is doling out funds to the mayors and Baham can't fight that. Peña is also being criticized for his old habit of washing his hands with alcohol after each handshaking session.

* * *

During my visit to Palawan last month, I visited former UP professor Oscar Evangelista and his American wife Susan, a former professor at the Ateneo University, who have chosen to retire in the outskirts of Puerto Princesa. Metro Manilans may find it hard to imagine retiring in the Palawan capital, but visiting with the Evangelistas in their lovely home by a mountain and close to the sea, I could see why. Aside from its idyllic beauty, the intellectual ferment in the place enables these retired academicians to remain active. Oscar is a consultant to the state university, where he plans to do occasional history lectures. Susan, a writer whose recent collection of essays details her long love affair with Asia which began when she first came as a Peace Corps volunteer four decades ago, is into NGO work. She plans to coordinate writing workshops for which Palawan is the perfect setting.

* * *

In a recent mock election held on a university campus in Iloilo, PPC candidate Bobby Tañada topped the senatorial contest. Also among the topnotchers were Obet Pagdanganan and Winnie Monsod. The former darling of the Ilonggos, Miriam Defensor-Santiago, was only No.14, although she once was at the top of the heap among students. Interestingly, the candidates who crowded the top in the mock polls were not the ones topping the senatorial contest in national surveys, and this is due in large part to the *masa* vote. It is evident that there is a yawning disparity between the educated classes and the *masa*, and that voter education is badly needed among the citizens.

* * *

This is something that should have been written last Lenten season. Marites Daza Ingles, daughter of my good friend Tessie Villegas-Daza, wrote to plug for her favorite ministry: the Jesuit music ministry and Jesuit communications. Marites points out that for the past decades, this group of young Jesuit "musicians" has been evangelizing and spreading the Good News through their music, creating such well-loved Filipino religious songs as "Tanging Yaman" and "Pananagutan." Their latest album, released during the Lenten season, is intriguingly called "Something More: Songs for Skeptics."

This album, which is available in CD and cassette, is a compilation of original English songs from the Jesuit team of musicians that are sung in churches all across the country, while their music videos are sung on radio and TV. "Songs for Skeptics" is a collection of very personal prayers set to music and inspired by stories from Sacred Scriptures as well as the lives of the saints and mystics, such as St. Therese of Lisieux, St. Anselm and Julian of Norwich. Marites says these songs ought to be more rightly called "prayers wrapped in songs," since they "are about God, although some of them are songs to God and others songs from God."

* * *

When one speaks of "Jesuit musicians," their number includes Fr. Manoling Francisco, composer of the religious classic "Hindi Kita Malilimutan"; Brother Arnel Aquino, best known for his "Lauds" series, which is made up of four collections of instrumental music for meditation; and of course, the mentor himself, Fr. Eddie Hontiveros, the composer of such songs as "Kahanga-hanga," "Dakilang Pag-ibig" and "Papuri sa Diyos." I once recommended in this space that Father Honti, as he is fondly called by his legion of admirers, be given the National Artist Award for religious music, and I'm happy to repeat that endorsement to the National Arts Commission.

Among the celebrity artists features in the "Songs for Skeptics" album are Jose Mari Chan, who sings the haunting "Empty Space: Song of the Heart of Jesus"; Ariel Rivera, who performs "One More Gift" with the Bukas Palad Ministry; Noel Cabangon, who sings "Let Your Spirit"; and Lea Salonga, who sings the title track "Something More" as arranged by her brother Gerard Salonga, with violinist DJ Francisco. The Jesuit CDs and cassette tapes are available at all BMG outlets.

Hard-working women

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's first Cabinet counts the biggest number of women ever. Six women hold Cabinet rank, and if we count Civil Service Commission Chair Karina Constantino David, that would make seven women holding senior positions in this administration. Excuse me, make that eight, as the President is of course a woman.

What difference does the presence of women make? "For one, it gives me a sense of comfort," says Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas. Having served previously in government as both head of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration and chair of the CSC, Sto. Tomas knows what it's like to be the lone female face in a table full of men. It also helps, of course, that "we are such a congenial group. Our networking is excellent and it is easy for us to simply get together and plan inter-agency initiatives. We know how to get things done by ourselves." In fact, she says only half-jokingly, "we are studying how we can get the men in the Cabinet to work like the women."

The women of the Ayala Group recently hosted a lunch billed "Women to Women," as it was meant to be an encounter between the women officials and women in media. Unfortunately, though all the women Cabinet members had said they could come, pressing matters (including the peace talks between with the National Democratic Front) derailed the attendance of all but three: Sto. Tomas, David and Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Juliano Soliman.

* * *

EVEN before the forum proper, Soliman had already given early birds a run-down on the President's work habits. "For one thing, Cabinet meetings always start on time, if not earlier." In fact, to make sure everybody's there when the President walks in, Executive Secretary Rene de Villa has "institutionalized" a weekly breakfast just before the Cabinet meeting.

"She's a hands-on chair," says Soliman of the President. "And when a Cabinet member is called on to report, she expects him or her to have complete staff work done, especially where the funds to cover projects and programs are to come from." She has been known to do the checking herself if the Cabinet member comes up short.

"No lunch is served," notes Soliman. "And our *merienda* fare is quite simple."

Having devoted much of her life to NGO work and concerns (agrarian reform, community development, urban poor organizing and feminism), Soliman says her biggest adjustment as a Cabinet member has been the realization that "all good intentions need pesos and centavos behind them." Serving in the Cabinet, she says, has given her the chance to view issues from the other side of the advocacy divide, where compromises need to be made to satisfy competing forces.

One other adjustment: "the public scrutiny."

"I still have to get used to strangers coming up to me in malls," she confides.

Is she changing her personal style, especially the rebellious streak of blue in her hair? "That's non-negotiable," she jokes, "but while I may still dress the way I want to, I make sure I keep the proper decorum."

* * *

"THERE'S no need to change your lifestyle," adds David, who has previously served in government and ought to know. "You can simply refuse (to take on the trappings of power), and settle for a simple life. It all depends on the person."

This, says David, is her "third time at bat" in the government service. "I don't know if I will strike out this time." But while she resigned from the Aquino-era DSWD (as undersecretary) and the Erap Cabinet (as HUDCC chair and housing adviser) under less than happy circumstances, David says she's looking forward to serving at the CSC. "There are no Cabinet meetings, so I can work at a more relaxed pace. I find that I'm not as tired."

But civil servants shouldn't place bets on a complacent CSC chair. "If the 1.4-million government employees don't shape up, then government won't change," she declares. Right now, David is most concerned about speeding up the resolution of cases filed before the CSC. From a backlog of about a thousand cases at the start of the year, the CSC now has only a little over 270 cases pending.

And just to illustrate the ease of networking and coordinating among the women in the Cabinet, right then and there, Soliman, David and Sto. Tomas began exploring ways of addressing the problem of contractualization, or keeping employees on a perpetual cycle of non-permanent employment. It's certainly an irony, said Soliman, that "the government is the biggest employer of contractual workers." The three are looking for ways beyond legislation and punitive measures against employers to address both the problem of job security and benefits for workers, as well as business survival for employers.

* * *

EMPLOYMENT, of course, is the number one concern of Sto. Tomas. The first question put to her was what the Department of Labor and Employment was doing about the reported closures of factories and plants, especially those of foreign firms. "We are fielding quick reaction teams to the sites," she replied, "and they try to match workers who are about to lose their jobs with existing job openings, or skills training for those who need to upgrade their skills and even retraining for those who're interested in other lines of work." Micro-lending facilities are also available for laid-off workers interested in becoming entrepreneurs.

Forward-looking, Sto. Tomas noted that "one-third of DOLE's work is dealing with the 10 percent of workers who are waged and salaried and unionized. I would like to see us devoting more time and effort to other workers—farm workers, fisher folk, market vendors—who are not protected and have no safety nets."

"Women simply work harder," asserted Sto. Tomas. If so, then the Macapagal administration can be expected to work even harder than its predecessors.

Readers response

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

MEA CULPA. I reproduced an e-mail on "Filipino trivia and historical facts" without double-checking. James Litton wrote to point out that the fluorescent lamp was invented by an American electrical engineer named Ingram who worked for General Electric, not by a Filipino named Flores. "The word 'fluorescent' is derived from the element fluoride which is the active chemical element in all fluorescent lamps. Fluorescent is certainly not derived, as alleged by many Filipinos, from the name Flores."

The information will no doubt come as a disappointment to many, including Dr. Ramon Sevilla who is working at Mahidol University in Thailand (Institute for Population and Social Research) and requested verification before he spread the news. So sorry.

We also have to thank architect Arnulfo Fajardo Dado of the National Historical Institute for pointing out the inaccuracy of describing "the paintings at the Basilica Minore of St. Michael the Archangel in Tayabas, Quezon, as "classical frescoes." Dado knowledgeably explains that "Fresco paintings involve the technique of applying pigments mixed with water onto wet plaster. The color merges through the chemical process of carbonization. This painting technique is known as the true fresco, which the Italian masters called *buon fresco* or *fresco buono*. Painting on dry plaster is called by analogy *fresco secco* or simply *secco*. Indications on the published photographs of the article show that the paintings were done on wooden surfaces and not on plaster. The readers of SIM deserve the correct information about their heritage."

Right. That was exactly my point regarding the NHI publication of Filipinos in history that included Maragtas and Kalantiao, twin inventions of a certain Ramon Marco's fevered imagination. Filipinos deserve better. As it is, Kalantiao is still part of the décor on the ceiling of the old Senate hall but that's probably okay as symbolic of some of our politicians' penchant for faking it. (You know, the eating with the hands and the kissing of babies or going to Communion to land on the front pages of the dailies.) I also expect Dado et al. to accept with the same humility their booboos with regards to restoration of some of our colonial churches. And to ask their contractor to clean up that mess in the churchyard of Tumauini.

Another article on "The residents of R. Hidalgo" also drew a response from Johnny Andres who was reminded of his teenage years when "the only downtown we knew then was Avenida and Quiapo. From time to time, I'd zigzag to R. Hidalgo, after my novena at the Black Nazarene, or, after a bowl of *mami* at Ma Mon Luk. Those were the days of simple joys and dreams…idyllic and we thought it would never end."

He rues the fact that "the government is not inclined to preserve such rich heritage." On the contrary, the perception is that it is out to destroy it as witness the demolition of the Jai-Alai Building, the mish-mash of Rizal Park, the Philippine Tourism Authority's Boardwalk Project, the disaster of poor Manila Hotel, the continued existence of those restaurants on the walls of Intramuros in defiance of the law. We could go on, but as architect Augusto Villalon recently informed me, the Heritage Conservation Society protested the concrete embellishments on Plaza Miranda only to be told that the HCS was the sole and only dissenter. Everyone else loves the curlicues or whatever it is that's blocking the vista of the church. But since the parish priest and the parish council are of the same mind as City Hall, why should we bother? After all, whatever was spent was only taxpayers' money.

Francisco Manalo, on the other hand, was upset "as I walked the entire length of said street (R. Hidalgo), from Bilibid Viejo to P. Gomez…to find out that the newly installed street signs placed the name Ramon Hidalgo." He asked us to call City Hall's attention but finally called the office of the mayor himself about the error. Paging Mr. Recato, my favorite engineer (who refuses to change Roxas Boulevard to my name): it's Felix Resurreccion Hidalgo, not Ramon. Who knows where they got Ramon Hidalgo?

Finally, we have another architect, Arturo Alcantara, who deplores the present conditions of architecture in the country. "Unless our major developers educate themselves, we will continue to be left behind by our neighboring Asian countries," he says. He blames the situation on developers and owners who are after profits only and consequently "forgot the real meaning of architecture." Architects on the other hand are at the mercy of their clients. The third party in the equation is government, but "everybody knows in the construction industry that you can't have any project moving without going (*sic*) to the corrupt practices of these people."

He believes that the reason for our "*chopsuey* development" is "we don't have RESPONSIBLE URBAN DESIGNERS AND GOVERNMENT MASTER PLANNERS that have the vision and courage for strong implementation. Without this we will continue to have architects exodus for foreign countries."

We all know that foreign countries benefit from the talents of Filipino architects and many other creative artists who either refuse or don't know how to play ball. In the meantime, instead of employing urban planners and landscape architects on their staff, city mayors continue to tear down historic buildings and destroy historic sites as though being elected suddenly gives them the divine right to inflict their kitschy taste on an unsuspecting public.

Coffee online

YOUNGBLOOD

Joahnna Faye Seno

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I'M not a coffee aficionado, but my friends and I used to get together and drink cappuccinos, lattes, espressos etc., to talk about life and everyday things. These meetings didn't follow a pattern. They were mostly spontaneous gatherings, depending on the statues of our finances and the stories we had to share. Over a cup of coffee, heartaches, life's aches, sappy opinions and jokes were exchanged.

If there we needed some more time to share an emotional burden and console each other, we would order another cup out of respect for the owner of the establishment and to bring down the raised eyebrows of customers who couldn't find seats. The truth was, the six of us didn't go to cafés to be seen, but to experience the comforting feeling of being together.

We're six in the group: Rumer, Mhian, Kaye, Kookie, Shaoie and me. We met during college and since our course had block sectioning, we were together all the time. We've been through a lot: from sleepovers to do some group studying to jamming sessions of an angst-filled female rock band that lasted for one semester. We knew each other's favorites, pet peeves, love tragedies and personalities. We've done outrageous things that made our *barkada* more cohesive.

After graduation, we dealt with more serious stuff such as board exams and job hunting. With our nurturing company, our struggles seemed easier. Eventually, each of us got temporary jobs and boyfriends. So we had to settle for occasional reunions.

It's been a year since our last celebrated caffeine party. It was a memorable event. On a cloudy moonless night, all six of us were sipping java outdoors at a new café. We were all laughing at first over the jokes we shared over dinner at a dimsum joint earlier. But as our cups went half-empty, we had to face the grim reality that would make silence descend on our table. That evening was actually a *despedida* for Mhian, who was leaving for Manila, and Kaye and Shaoie, who were both going to the United States to fulfill their dreams. We tried our best to make our conversations normal, and veered away from talking about missing each other or asking when we would meet again. We realized we had to discover our own life paths. My heart was heavy as I sensed my security blanket being slowly taken away.

Of course, we were rather that some of us were getting the breaks they wished for, but we also knew that things would never be the same again.

We stopped by Tops, a famous Cebu landmark perched on a mountaintop overlooking the city. It was chilly and foggy when we got there. We cuddled together on a bench, staring on the wondrous view. I didn't care how my acidic tummy rumbled when we downed cold beers to fight the cool air. All that mattered was the warmth flowing through our huge group hug.

Everyone was talking about life's journeys and how we could cope with this major change. Tears moistened our faces and we chided each other for being such softies. We giggled like crazy until we got home at 4 in the morning.

E-mail has been an important lifeline for us for the past months. We've been sharing coffee-influenced online cards, while Mhian has been sending me and Rumer table napkins she took from different Manila cafés.

Rumer, Kookie and I got together for cheap coffee after the three left, but things weren't quite the same. There just seemed to be something missing.

Now when I go to a coffee shop and see people deep in conversation, I experience some nostalgia. My friends and I may share cheesy graphics through our group e-mails, but the important thing is we get to "talk" on a daily basis.

For us, coffee was never about social status or addiction. It meant good company and worthwhile conversations. Sipping our javas was meant to cover the time when we ran out of words. I miss the taste of an espresso but I get the same "high" knowing my best friends are there.

Joahnna Faye Seno, 25, is a licensed physical therapist but she isn't practicing her profession.

Notice to Youngblood contributors

Contributors to Youngblood who haven't received their checks are requested to inquire with the PDI cashier on Friday.

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO...?

Quiapo killings

ON JUNE 8, 2000, Ustadz Hadji Esmael Omar, 35, and Akmad Samin, 40, both Muslims, were gunned down during a reported encounter with Western Police District operatives at the Islamic Center in Quiapo, Manila.

Chief Supt. Avelino Razon Jr. cited Philippine Army intelligence reports saying that Omar was a field commander of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and Samin was his bodyguard. The report also said the two were out to sow terror in Metro Manila to create a diversion for Moro rebels battling government forces in Mindanao at that time.

The victims' relatives, however, vehemently denied all the allegations and raised the possibility of a rubout. They pointed out that the two men were unarmed.

The WPD, on Razon's instructions, conducted an investigation. As a result, homicide cases were filed against SPO4 Wilson Tibor, SPO4 Remigio Estacio, SPO4 Benedicto Rodriguez, SPO2 Edgardo Abaga, SPO2 Eduardo Ramos, SPO1 Julian Siriban, PO3 Randy Dimayuga, PO2 Ronald Hernandez, PO2 Philip Malindog and PO1 Ignacio Gaerlan, all members of the WPD Police Intelligence Unit. The cases were filed with the City Prosecutor's Office of Manila.

The National Bureau of Investigation found some witnesses who contradicted the police's claim of a shootout. On June 22, the NBI filed with the Department of Justice two cases of murder against the 10 policemen. They were disarmed and dismissed on the same day by Razon.

The lawyers of the victims' relatives moved for the consolidation of the homicide cases in Manila with the murder charges in the DOJ. On July 20, 2000, the chief city prosecutor of Manila forwarded the homicide cases to the DOJ for consolidation since the same parties and the same incident were involved.

On Sept. 15, the prosecutor recommended the filing of double murder charges against nine of the accused. The case against Rodriguez was dismissed for lack of evidence. There was proof of his presence at the scene of the crime.

Case status: Deputy Ombudsman for the Military Orlando Casimiro approved the prosecutor's resolution on Feb. 13. The next day, double murder charges were filed with the Manila Regional Trial Court against the nine accused.

Armin P. Adina, PDI Research Department

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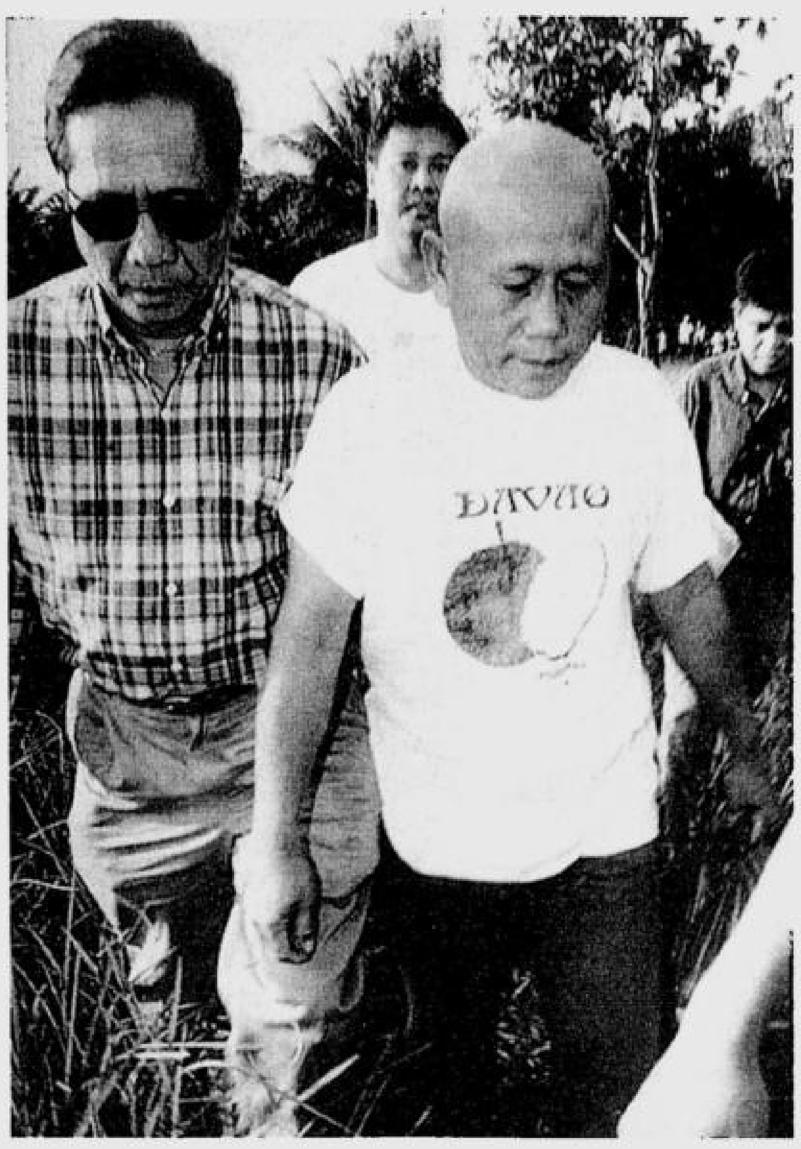
Positive messages from Manero surrender



I READ with much amusement the articles on the much-ballyhooed handshake between President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and escaped convict Norberto Manero Jr.

I am amused because that "presentation" to the President in Zamboanga City has taken a spin that even attracted do-gooders or self-proclaimed protocol officers to express their indignation.

As the key negotiator who worked for the surrender of Manero, may I state the following:

(1) I agree with other presidential advisers and the public that there should be no one-on-one meeting between the President and Manero. I saw to it that Manero didn't get a single opportunity to mention his concerns, express his so-called demands to the President. Even during my conversations with him prior to his surrender, I never entertained his demands and refused even to discuss them.

Hence, please note that the only words exchanged were those of was Manero telling the President, "Thank you very much, ma'am," to which she replied, "*Maayong pagabot.*"

After the quick presentation, I personally delivered him to the Davao Penal Colony. He will be facing charges of evasion of service of sentence.

(2) The presentation of Manero was done just like the presentation of surrendered Muslim rebels who have engaged in kidnapping, terrorism and murder. She shook the hands of everyone.

(3) Manero, after his escape, was being contacted by armed groups, including his former comrades like Alonto Tahir and armed Muslim bandits. Tahir also escaped from the Saranggani Provincial Jail about a year ago during a daring dawn attack launched by his cohorts.

(4) Owing to the notoriety of Manero and his armed groups, as evidenced by actual events in the past, his escape created ripples of apprehension and fear among many sectors in Mindanao. His surrender has allayed all these apprehensions and fears.

There are so many positive messages that can be taken from Manero's surrender. That presidential handshake should not be viewed negatively.

Please give us a chance to solve our own problems in Mindanao. If it takes a thousand more handshakes to advance peace in Mindanao, so be it. That handshake was never intended to glorify Manero or criminality.

The President is President of all the people—business managers, evacuees and plain citizens alike, even hardened criminals. She has even said that she would also shake the hand of Abu Sabaya if he would surrender.

As the presidential assistant for Mindanao, I have a continuing mission to help bring peace and development in Mindanao.—**JESUS G. DUREZA, presidential assistant for regional concerns, Office of the President, Office for Southern Mindanao, 3/F, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Regional Office Building, E. Quirino Ave., Davao City**

LETTERS

Much ado over handshake

FRANKLY, I did not expect the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption to take such a dim view of the President's meeting with fugitive Norberto Manero Jr. But however late in the day, I would like to add my perspective on the matter and to point out the following:

- Manero gave himself up to the President without any conditions whatsoever.
- The President made no concessions to Manero, nor did she give him any special treatment.
- Manero went straight back to prison—a maximum-security facility in Davao—after his meeting with the President.

As the leader of the nation, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's sworn duty is to uphold the Constitution and the laws of the land. Part and parcel of this responsibility is to promote respect for the law.

When she decided to personally accept Manero's surrender, it must have been out of her deep conviction that absolutely no one is above the law.

This is the same principle that seems to be at work in the government's determination to see the plunder case against former President Estrada to its logical conclusion. This is also the same principle that appears to be behind the government's decision to go all-out against the Abu Sayyaf and make them account for their crimes.

The VACC and other anti-crime groups, as well as the Filipino people as a whole, hope that the government will not waver in its drive against criminality.—**PETER L. MIA, lawyer, Makati City**

Video camera for Tagaytay cops

WE read with great interest the article of your reporter Stella O. Gonzales on how traffic rules are being strictly and honestly implemented at Tagaytay City.

As the national auto club, we salute and encourage the Tagaytay City police chief, Shedon Jacaban, and his men, and by way of support, would like to offer a modest donation of P10,000 to help fund their purchase of a video camera.—**CARLOS D. ARGUELLES, president, Philippine Motor Association, Aurora Boulevard, Quezon City**

Baseless insinuations against NBI chief

WHEN I was a manager of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority some years back, I observed that the Philippine media, and the general public which is so heavily under its influence, were quick to condemn any government official who was the subject of an unfavorable rumor.

This attitude may be understandable since it is one media's functions to fiscalize. However, I am convinced that it will prove to be equally productive to give credit to deserving public officials.

Gen. Reynaldo Wycoco, the present NBI director, is a good example. Some quarters have insinuated that Wycoco is merely being used in the Dacer case to blacken the image of senatorial candidate and ex-PAOCTF chief Ping Lacson. I feel that Wycoco doesn't deserve this.

A few years ago, I had the good fortune of working with him on a multi-million-peso project my company did for the National Capital Regional Command, which was then under his command. At no instance did he give a hint, much less make any demand for an under-the-table consideration. His dealings were aboveboard from start to finish, and he impressed me as being forthright, honest and thoroughly professional.

The Dacer case, sensitive and sensational though it is, is certainly safe in the hands of such a public servant.

I accept that public officials, precisely because of their position, are fair game to the mass media and the general public. I think it is only fair and healthy to be generous with praise whenever it is earned. I thus congratulate President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo for entrusting the NBI to General Wycoco. And I urge all quarters to give the man a real chance to prove himself, instead of obstructing his performance with unwarranted and baseless insinuations.—**ROBERT C. NACIANCENO, D. Tuazon Street, Quezon City**

The gentle people of American towns

I wish to react to Leandro Coronel's "American Ugly" commentary last April 11.

Ugly as with beautiful is indubitably both subjective in essence and in fact. I need not explain this to Coronel, seeing that he is obviously well schooled and intelligent.

The ugly behavior of some American officials (the arrogant consul at the US Embassy or President George W. Bush's propensity toward sarcasm) often shows the person's stupidity or some other psychotic quirk. Coronel has unwittingly placed himself in the same line of fire.

I see that Coronel has lived for a long time in the United States. In all probability, the Americans he had in mind were the politicians and lobbyists who boozed it up in one of those notorious DC cocktail parties. In this group, intelligence and sophistication are measured by the number of expletives one can say in a given sentence, a la Nixon or LBJ and the rest of them. To the virgin ear this is ugly and I thoroughly agree.

But has he ventured out of the District of Columbia to some little town in Middle America where "dear hearts and gentle people live"? Washington, D.C. does not America make, its being the nation's capital notwithstanding. Neither does Manila the Philippines make.

My girl married a Catholic American of Mexican descent in Escondido, California. They have three grown children. All are upstanding Americans who respect their Filipino and Hispanic heritage as much as they love American values. Mom and Dad never speak nasty; neither do the kids.

My boy, who lives in National City, California, with his Catholic Irish-Filipino wife is proud of their children, a 16-year-old fella and a 14-year-old girl. They enjoy their *barkadas*. None speaks nasty.

There is something I don't understand. Why was the Cuban boy, Elian Gonzales, used in the same context? You know as well as I do that the boy was used as a political football by pro and anti-Castro Cubans residing in Miami, a great many of whom were not even American citizens. Attorney General Janet Reno stepped into the fray only to arbitrate because the fracas was happening on American soil. Washington had no desire to jeopardize Cuban-American relations which at that time were beginning to mellow.

Next time he goes to the United States, Coronel should visit smaller cities in Indiana, Wisconsin, Utah, Pennsylvania and a lot of other towns in Middle America where he will find "dear hearts and gentle people who live in my hometown," as the song goes. Shoot the breeze with Jake and Zeke at Old Harry's Bar and Shuffleboards. Drop by mom and pop groceries on Main Street, USA. This is were you'll find the American Gentle, not the American Ugly.—**JUAN GALLARDO, Candelaria, Quezon**

Party-list reps are redundant?

IN MY honest opinion, I think it is redundant to have party-list representatives in Congress. Why? Because in each congressional district, there are laborers, urban and rural poor, women, youth, veterans, senior citizens, fishermen, indigenous communities, students, teachers, soldiers, policemen, etc., and these sectors are already represented by our congressmen (we have already 206 of them). So, I honestly believe, *nag-ooverlap lamang ang trabaho ng ating mga* congressmen at party-list representatives. If this set-up continues, then it is an indictment on the part of our congressmen to the effect that they are incapable of representing these various sectors in our society. It is a choice therefore of having congressmen but no party-list representatives or having party-list representatives but no congressmen. We cannot have both.

Another important thing to consider is the fact that it is very expensive to maintain 50 party-list representatives (20 percent of the number of our congressmen) given the limited financial capabilities of our country. At an average of about four million pesos per party-list representative per annum, this would amount to P200 million a year or P600 million for three (3) years. Do you know that with P600 million, we could build around 2,400 schoolrooms (at about P250 per school room). This will definitely alleviate the acute shortage of classrooms in our country.—**PAUL R. MORTEL, MBLA Court, Malanday, Marikina City**

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Aklan
MUNICIPALITY OF MADALAG
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID

1. The Government of the Philippines through the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) has received a Loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) towards the cost of Agrarian Reform Communities Project (ARCP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for Rural Infrastructure Component for which this Invitationn to pre-qualify and to bid is issued.
2. The Municipality of Madalag, Aklan, as implementing partner of the DAR for ARCP, intends to pre-qualify contractors and if pre-qualified, to bid for the rehabilitation/construction of the Sub-project located in Timbaban ARC, Madalag, Aklan, titled;
   Bacyang - Mercedes - Galicia Road, with a total length of 2.80 kilometers.
   Approved Agency Estimate (AAE) = P7,888,758.60
   Minimum Equipment required:

1 unit	Prime Mover	- Onwed/Leaded
2 units	Bulldozer	- Owned/Leased
1 unit	Backhoe	- Owned/Leased
1 unit	Grader	- Owned
1 unit	Roller	- Owned/Leased
1 unit	Water Truck	- Owned/Leased
1 unit	Loader	- Owned
4 units	Dumptruck	- Owned
2 units	2-B Mixer	- Owned
1 unit	Plate compactor	- Owned
2 units	Conc. Vibrator	- Owned

3. Pre-qualification documents and bidding documents may be acquired by interested bidders at the Municipal Hall of Madalag, Aklan from **April 22-27, 2001** upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the same address.
4. Submission of application for pre-qualification must be received in sealed envelopes addressed to the Chairman, PBAC, Municipality of Madalag, Aklan not later than 5:00 p.m. on **May 4, 2001.**
5. A pre-bidding conference will be held at the Municipal Hall of Madalag, Aklan at 9:00 a.m. on **May 21, 2001.**
6. Submission and opening of bids will be on **June 4, 2001.** No bids will be accepted later than 12:00 Noon. Opening of bids will be at 1:00 p.m. The bids shall be valid for a period of 120 calendar days after bid opening and must be accompanied by a security or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency.
7. The PBAC reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligations whatsoever to compensate or indemnify to the bidder for any expense or loss that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the bid most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ORLANDO R. INOSANTO
Municipal Mayor/Chairman, PBAC

(PDI - Apr. 21, 22 & 24, 2001)

Beware the IT hype

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

EVERY other college student seems to be majoring in computer science these days, a trend which I view with mixed feelings. No doubt, the new computer-based information technologies (IT) hold much promise for the future, but I think, too, there's much hype surrounding IT, and many computer science graduates are bound to end up jobless and frustrated.

The rush to computer science comes in part from stories of Filipinos who made it good in the United States working in the IT sector, but I'm not sure how long that market will hold, and whether we are producing the type of people needed. The Information Technology Association of America (ITAA) recently came up with a report that shows a slowing down of the demand for IT workers. It estimates that this year there will be about 900,000 new IT jobs in the United States, which may seem a lot, but this is a substantial decrease from last year's figure, which was 1.6 million.

Part of the decrease in demand is due to the faltering economies of many developed countries, particularly the United States. Sales of computers and electronics have dropped and some high-tech companies are retrenching in rather drastic ways. Hewlett-Packard plans to cut down its management employees from 14,000 to 11,000 in the next two months. The Swedish mobile phone maker, Ericsson, will eliminate 12,000 jobs this year, and Canada's Nortel Networks will let go of 20,000 employees.

The first ones to lose their jobs will be foreign employees. A few weeks back, there was a CNN feature on the disappearing jobs in the information technology sector. They interviewed several people who had gone to the United States to work but had lost their jobs, and were in danger of being deported because their visas were tied to their employment. At least two of those interviewed spoke with their faces in the dark because they were now technically illegal aliens, but from their accents, I could tell they were Filipino.

When America sneezes, we get pneumonia, so their problems with dotcoms and computer companies are magnified here. I think the high-tech sector will recover, but even when that happens, it doesn't necessarily mean our computer science graduates will qualify for the new jobs. This is because the quality of our training is often substandard. My own health NGO has a computer science graduate from a state-run college and she will tell you she learned nothing significant about computers from her school. Whatever she does know she picked up from our office, where she was a working student.

I know she's only one person, but I'm sure readers have their own stories of computer science graduates whose diplomas haven't been too useful in getting them jobs. Some graduates end up as clerks, salespersons, or worse. An article in the online edition of Time magazine (April 16, 2001) written by Daffyd Roderick, describes the Philippines as a "hackers' paradise." Roderick reveals that we have 350,000 students in local computer schools, but many end up jobless. Some of them become hackers, people who break into other people's computer systems wreaking havoc like Onel de Guzman and his "I love you virus" last year, or, worse, stealing other people's credit card numbers and using the cards for their own personal purchases. Roderick estimates that there are at least a thousand of these "cyberthieves" with the "wrong kind of training" and "a blurry sense of right and wrong."

Roderick was able to interview two of these hackers, "Eyestrain" and "Hiiro." Eyestrain seemed the more savvy, a bright kid from a lower middle-class family who studied at a popular computer college but found the classes disappointing and then shifted to another school, but eventually dropped out. He has the skills, but no company will hire him because he doesn't have a diploma and because there are so many other job applicants.

The government needs to buckle down and conduct a serious study of the short- and long-term IT needs, domestically and internationally, and then assess how the educational system is responding (or not responding) to those needs. We shouldn't repeat the mistakes we had with the medical professions: when the US opened up their markets in the 1960s medical and nursing schools sprouted like mushrooms. Then the US markets dried up but the schools remained, still churning out graduates by the thousands, and often with questionable competence. Many of them remain unemployed, or are working in non-health fields.

It seems that the computer science craze repeats this past folly, with computer schools coming up like Jollibee franchises.

The ITAA study offers us other insights. First, ITAA points out that IT fields are actually quite diverse, including enterprise systems, network administration, digital media and technical writing. Second, the ITAA paper reveals that most IT jobs are actually in non-IT companies, i.e., business firms, government agencies and service institutions that need people who can apply computer skills to a particular field such as medicine, or business.

We should pick up some leads from that ITAA paper. Avoid computer science unless you can get a school that can offer you good training. And don't force yourself (or your kids) into computer science unless there's a real interest in computers and the personality for this kind of work—patience, persistence, a logical and systematic mind that still allows for intuition and creativity.

Most young people will have more promising career options doing a degree in engineering, the natural and social sciences, the health fields, mass communications, the humanities. Just make sure to become computer literate, learning word processing, spreadsheet management and web designing. With that mix of computer and non-computer skills, you might end up with better chances breaking into the IT sector. And if you don't, it isn't really too bad joining the ranks of other mortals by being a plain old doctor, nurse, zoologist or journalist.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.org

Case meant to teach responsibility

LAST March 29, the INQUIRER ran a story titled, "Bohol bets for gov throw 'houses' at each other." That story written by Chito Fuentes mentioned that I owned the house and vowed to exhaust all means to run after the complainants. I was also quoted as saying that I decided to come out because of the insult heaped not only on my brother but on my whole family whom the complainants degraded and insulted in the course of their demolition job against my brother.

Please allow me to elaborate on some points so that we won't be misunderstood. I feel that I have been portrayed as onion-skinned because I threatened to take legal action against those who filed a case against Gov. Rene Relampagos for allegedly acquiring ill-gotten wealth.

The issue here is not that I am preparing legal action to get back at those who have filed a case against my brother. It is a fact that the privacy of our home has been shattered by the case. We will have to open all our records and documents to public scrutiny, including our loans and debts, because we have been described as "jobless" by his accusers and unable to build our house that is certainly not a mansion.

We are not filing a case because we cannot stand criticism. We are filing a case so that people, especially those who are politically motivated, will be responsible enough to consider sensibilities and dignity. We are suffering because the complainants in the alleged ill-gotten wealth case chose to shoot first and ask questions later.—**EMMA RELAMPAGOS-CASEÑAS, Sta. Cruz, Baclayon, Bohol**

The WORLD

Koizumi poised to win PM race

TOKYO—Maverick reformer Junichiro Koizumi looks set to win a stunning upset victory when Japan's ruling party chooses its new leader Tuesday, but the question is whether the man who will also be the new prime minister, will be able to push his own reformist policies.

The new Liberal Democratic Party leader is due to be chosen on Tuesday by a vote of the party's 346 parliament members plus 141 votes from its 47 local chapters, each of which has three votes counting toward the election.

The winner is almost certain to be elected as prime minister by lawmakers later in the week because of the LDP's dominance of parliament.

Early in the race, former prime minister Ryutaro Hashimoto had been tipped to win as the leader of the largest faction in the party with the support of the party's key powerbroker, former LDP secretary general Hiromu Nonaka.

But unofficial results from primary polling by local LDP chapters in weekend news reports suggested Koizumi, 59, would win Tuesday's race with the backing of the overwhelming majority of the party rank and file.

He was reported to have so far won the backing of 68 of the 141 local party delegates compared to Hashimoto's 10, and was widely predicted to finish with more than 100.

While the immediate question was whether Ryutaro Hashimoto would concede defeat without a vote—as happened twice before when Masayoshi Ohira became leader in 1978, and again in 1982 with Yasuhiro Nakasone—doubts were already being raised over Koizumi's ability to deliver.

"People consider him the Savior," said political analyst Harumi Arima.

"He has been acting as a mouthpiece for what people want to say, but whether he would be able to implement his policies is open to question."

Shigenori Okazaki, political analyst at UBS Warbug, said Koizumi had indulged in extravagant campaign promises he never thought he would be in a position to have to honor them.

"He has inflated expectations so much outside the party because he didn't believe he would win, but he is winning. What's he going to do now?" he said, pointing out Koizumi still only has minority support within the parliamentary faction of the LDP.

Yasuhiko Yoshida, professor of international relations at Waseda University, agreed it would be hard for Koizumi to pursue a reformist agenda even if he takes over as leader.

"Party members chose Koizumi because they figured the LDP could lose an upper house election in July under Hashimoto. But it will be very difficult for Koizumi to implement drastic reform," Yoshida said.

"His high popularity has little to do with his ability and leadership to reform the party and Japan." *AFP*

Group owns Israel blast

JERUSALEM—An unknown group called "The Popular Army Front-Battalions of the Return" claimed responsibility for a bomb attack in Israel Sunday that killed two people and injured dozens more.

In a statement sent to AFP, the group confirmed it had "exploded a big device at Kfar Saba (north of Tel Aviv) near the number 29 bus." It did not mention any victims.

Israeli police said it was a suicide attack, in which the bomber and a 53-year-old Israeli man died. At least 39 people were reported to have been injured.

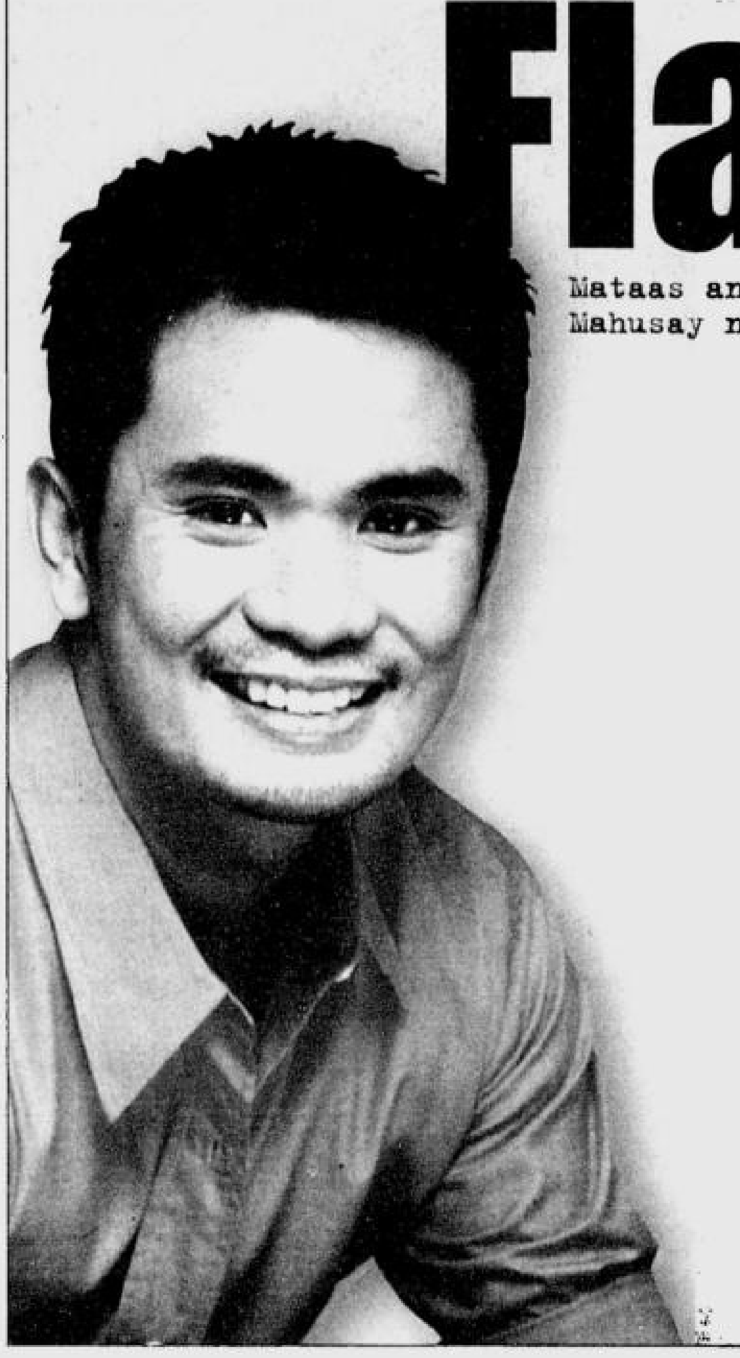
The group said the attack was "in response to the bombings, raids, destruction of houses and land . . . and aggression against our people in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, as well as in response to the bombing of a Syrian position in Lebanon."

The Israeli Army launched an overnight attack on a Syrian position in eastern Lebanon on April 15, killing, according to Damascus, one soldier and wounding four others.

The group accused Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and the government of "wanting to impose an interim accord (on Palestinians), while demanding land, peace and security at the same time."

The main Palestinian militant organization, Hamas, described the bombing as a legitimate self-defense earlier Sunday, without going as far as to claim responsibility for the attack.

Sharon put the blame on the shoulders of Arafat's Palestinian Authority, accusing the PA of "not working in accordance with the agreements it is committed to regarding foiling attacks of terror against Israel." *AFP*



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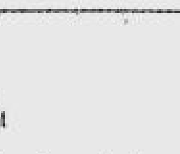

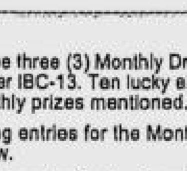

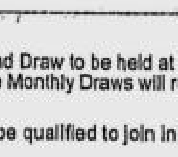

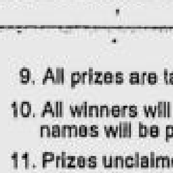

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9. All prizes are tax-free.
10. All winners will be notified via telegram on how to claim their prizes. Winners' names will be published in a newspaper of general circulation.
11. Prizes unclaimed within 60 days will be forfeited in favor of the organizer upon prior approval of the BFAD.
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Indonesia faces decisive moment, says Wahid

JAKARTA—President Abdurrahman Wahid yesterday said that Indonesia was facing a decisive moment but was capable of overcoming its problems as he urged new ambassadors to pass on the message abroad.

Wahid told four newly-sworn in ambassadors, who are to be posted to the United Nations, Australia, China and Romania, that Indonesia was basically stable and would overcome its problems in the near future.

"We are currently negotiating with the IMF to obtain a final result. The rupiah is now weakening but hopefully that can be settled as soon as possible," he said, as broadcast by the private SCTV network.

"We are also facing all kinds of major problems and therefore this, must reflected in the carrying out of your duties."

As Indonesia's parliament maneuvers to force Wahid from power over two corruption scandals and his erratic leadership, the already weak economy is faltering, with currency and local share prices plunging to 30-month lows.

Interest rates and inflation are rising, and foreign investors pulling out.

Vice President Megawati Sukarnoputri and former Indonesian military chief General Wiranto have both likened Indonesia's current problems to the turbulent post-independence period in the 1950s.

Wiranto warned last week that squabbling politicians and the build-up of paramilitary supporters by political parties were bringing the nation "to the edge of a cliff" and risking civil war.

Wahid, who came to power 18 months ago as the country's first democratically-elected president, is close to being impeached by the parliament over two financial scandals involving some $6 million. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Summit formalizes plans

QUEBEC—Leaders of 34 Western Hemisphere nations both rich and poor agreed to stick with an ambitious plan to create the world's largest free-trade zone by 2005 and penalize any country that strays from the path of democracy. Stepping up to a table in pairs to sign the accord Sunday, the leaders left many differences unresolved as they concluded a three-day, protest-marred summit. US President George W. Bush headed home from his first international conference to face a tough battle in winning negotiating authority from Congress to complete the deal. "There is no question in my mind that we have challenges ahead. Also, there is no question that we can meet those challenges," Bush said after scrawling his name on the agreement to create a Free Trade Area of the Americas encompassing 800 million people. In scattered incidents of violence, anti-trade demonstrators lit bonfires and smashed windows along the St. Lawrence River. But streets were mostly quiet on a rainy Sunday, without the clashes between police and some demonstrators that had marked the first two days of the session. There were only a few arrests. *AP*

Arms package for Taiwan

TAIPEI—The United States may be willing to sell Taiwan missiles that could be used to strike the command and radar systems of rival China, a report said yesterday. The United Daily News said a sale could be in the offing because Taipei had apparently developed its own version of HARMs—high-speed anti-radiation missiles. It backed its report with a photo of a Taiwan Indigenous Defensive Fighter (IDF) armed with two of the missiles, which it said had unusually been printed in a US air force monthly. The Taiwan-made missile was a variant of the locally developed Tienchien II medium-range air-to-air missile, the paper said. President George W. Bush is mulling whether to grant Taiwan's request for a package of arms, including hi-tech Aegis radar systems, submarines and other weaponry to counter a rising missile threat from its arch foe China. *AFP*

Montenegro elections

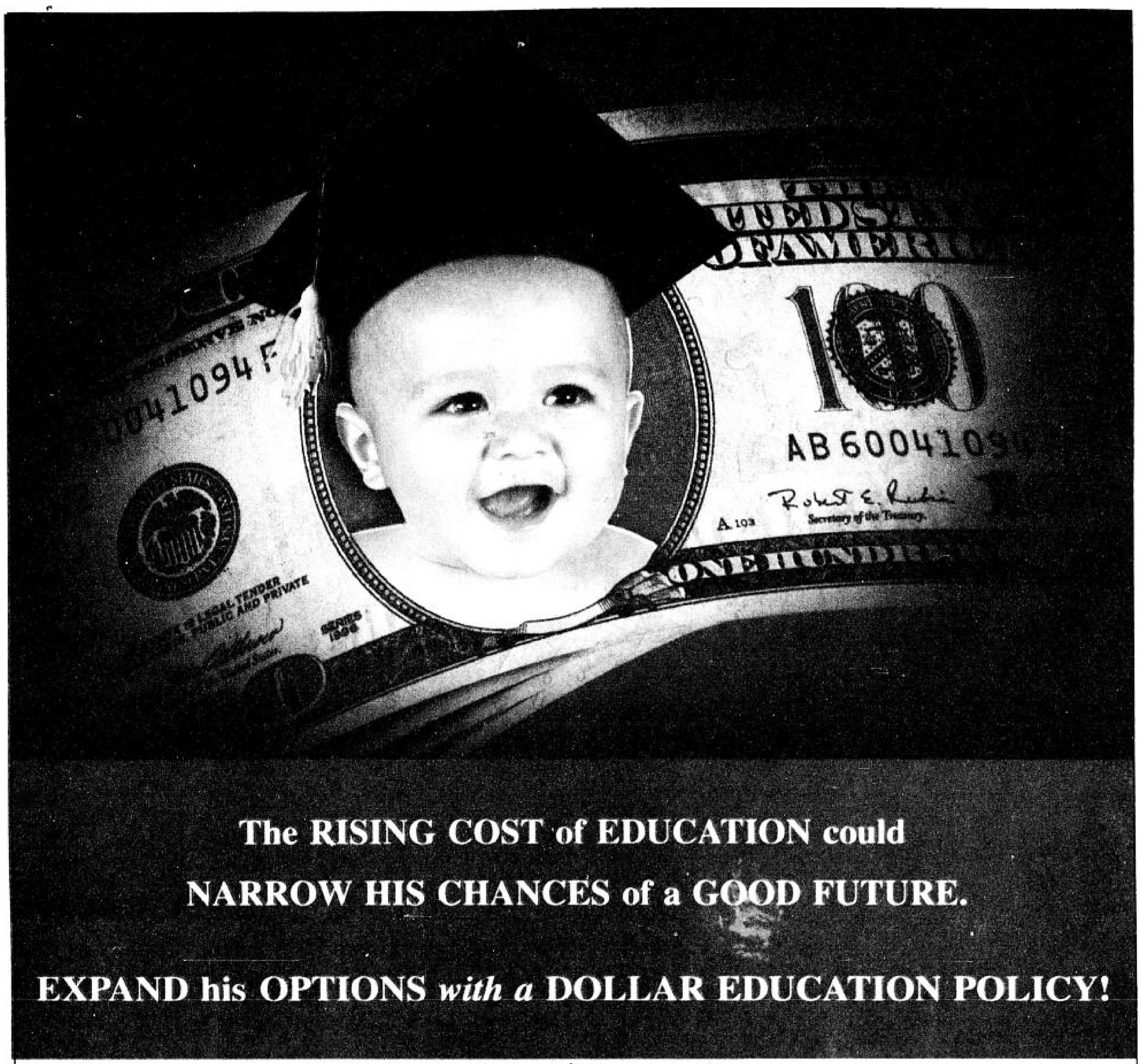
PODGORICA, Yugoslavia—Surviving its first major test, Montenegro's pro-independence movement won a slim majority in parliamentary elections, adding momentum to its push to call a referendum this summer on breaking away from Yugoslavia. With 65 percent of the vote counted from Sunday's balloting, Montenegrin President Milo Djukanovic's coalition—called "Victory Belongs to Montenegro"—led with 43.3 percent, the state electoral commission said, announcing unofficial returns. The anti-independence "Together for Yugoslavia" bloc trailed with 39.6 percent. Citing the pro-independence movement's own figures, Djukanovic spokesperson Miodrag Vukovic said that with about 70 percent of the vote counted, the coalition led 44 percent to 38 percent. Vukovic said Djukanovic would form a new governing coalition with separatist-minded Liberal party, which won 9 percent of the vote, and that together they would push for a referendum on independence, perhaps as early as June. Djukanovic said the unofficial results suggested that supporters of independence would take a combined 44 seats in the 77-seat parliament—35 seats for his faction, six seats for the liberals and three for small ethnic Albanian parties, which also support independence. *AP*

Japanese POWs bayoneted

SYDNEY, Australia—Australian troops executed Japanese prisoners of war during World War II by bayoneting them to death, a retired general claims. Maj. Gen Paul Cullen, who commanded Australian troops during bitter fighting in Papua New Guinea in 1942-43, said some of his men bayoneted Japanese prisoners because of reports that Australian prisoners were being badly treated. Cullen, 92, said he understood why soldiers killed the prisoners, but he still feels guilty about the deaths. "On one occasion, the leading platoon captured five or seven Japanese and moved on to the next battle. The next platoon came along and bayoneted these Japanese," Cullen says in a documentary on Australian military history that starts showing Wednesday on Australian Broadcasting Corp. "It was understandable, but I felt it was my battalion, my soldiers. I felt pretty guilty on that. I am not really critical of the soldiers. They were full of determination and hate," he says. *AP*

Lee keeps low profile

OSAKA, Japan—Former Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui kept a low profile Monday on the first full day of a visit that increased tension between his Japanese hosts and China. He took a 30-minute walk with his wife, Tzeng Wen-hui, outside their downtown hotel. But he had little to say in response to questions from the media. Accompanied by a security detail and a crowd of reporters and photographers, he shook hands with passers-by and flashed a smile as he strolled along the Okawa River. "I feel great," he was quoted as saying by Kyodo News agency. Asked if he cared about China's vehement protests about his presence in Japan, he said, "No," and walked on. He reportedly expressed an interest in visiting Osaka Castle later in the day. Lee arrived in the western city of Osaka on Sunday night for a five-day visit to seek treatment for his heart condition. He was scheduled for a heart checkup in the nearby city of Kurashiki on Tuesday. Japan's decision to issue him a visa on "humanitarian grounds" enraged China, which accuses the 78-year-old retired president of undermining its goal of reunification with Taiwan. The sides split amid civil war in 1949. *AP*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Missionaries' kin: Plane shot without warning

LIMA, Peru—Family members of American missionaries, whose plane was shot down over the Amazon River after they were apparently mistaken for drug smugglers, insist that Peru's air force opened fire without warning, killing a woman and her infant daughter.

The recently registered, single-engine Cessna, tracked by a US counter-drug surveillance plane, had contacted the Iquitos air tower and received landing clearance about 10 minutes before it was downed, said Richmond Donaldson, father of pilot Kevin Donaldson, on Sunday.

"Here was a plane following a regular route. Drug runners do not follow regular routes," he said. The attack started at 1,219 meters Friday morning and ended with the plane's surviving occupants clinging to its pontoons in the water.

"There was the contact with the tower that these other planes should have heard," the pilot's father said. "They should have checked the plane's numbering. It was just recently registered."

Missionary Veronica "Roni" Bowers, 35, and her daughter, Charity, were both killed, apparently by a single bullet that passed through the woman's body and entered the child's skull as she sat on her mother's lap.

Her husband, Jim Bowers, 37, and their 6-year-old son Cory, survived. They flew back to the United States late Saturday.

Kevin Richmond, 42, a veteran missionary, suffered a crushed leg bone and severed arteries in his foot, caused by gunfire that forced him to crash-land his Cessna 135 into the Amazon River near the jungle town of Huanta, some 1,009 km northeast of Lima.

He was reportedly en route Sunday to a Philadelphia hospital for surgery.

US officials announced late Saturday that drug interdiction flights over Peru were being suspended pending a full investigation. *AP*

Istanbul hostage drama ends peacefully

ISTANBUL—After hours holed up in a luxury hotel, pro-Chechen gunmen surrendered to police yesterday and released dozens of guests and staff members held hostage, officials said.

No one was injured in the standoff, police said. Thirteen gunmen were detained, said Mete Nusret Cetinbas, the head of the Istanbul-based Caucasus Association, who negotiated with the gunmen.

The gunmen agreed to end the standoff after Interior Minister Sadettin Tantan held talks with them at the hotel, Cetinbas said. Details of the discussion were not immediately disclosed.

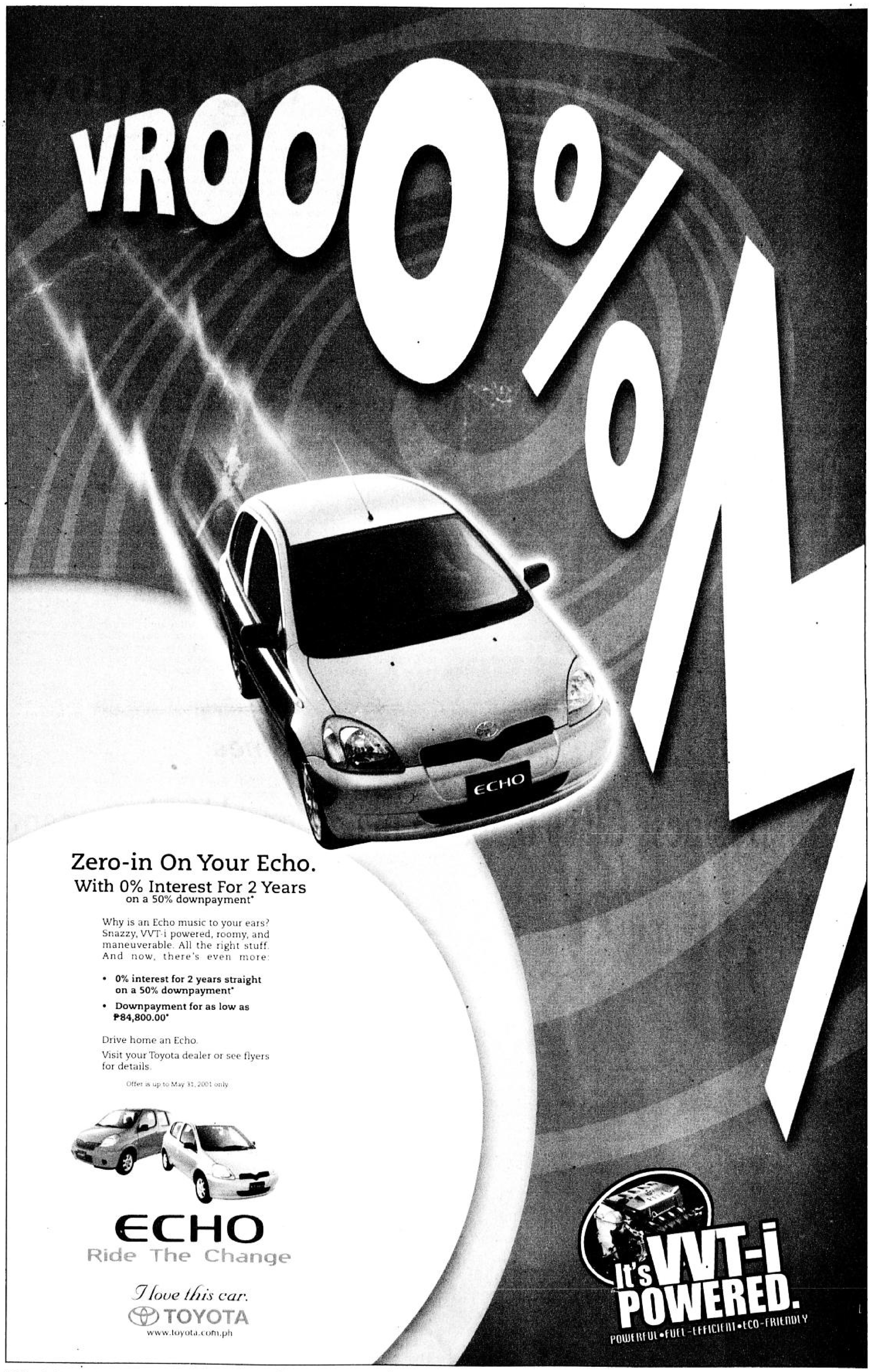
A police bus carrying the gunmen was seen leaving the hotel.

The gunmen, armed with automatic rifles and shotguns, stormed the Swissotel on Sunday, taking at least 30 people hostage.

The gunmen issued a statement saying their action was aimed at protesting Russia's "bloody attacks" in the Caucasus, where Chechnya is located.

Cetinbas said the gunmen apparently chose the Swissotel to get more international reaction, since there were many Western tourists staying there at the time.

Swissair parent company and the hotel's owner, SAirGroup, said there were approximately 600 guests at the hotel at the time of the attack. However, it was unclear what nationalities the hostages were. *AP*



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Across the NATION

TONY BERGONIA, Assistant Editor

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: The Eastern sections of Luzon and the whole of Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila HI 36° Lo 25°	**Baguio** HI 27° Lo 16°	**Tuguegarao** HI 35° Lo 23°
Laoag HI 34° Lo 24°	**Clark Zone** HI 35° Lo 24°	**Tagaytay** HI 33° Lo 22°
Legazpi HI 32° Lo 24°	**Bacolod** HI 34° Lo 26°	**Roxas** HI 32° Lo 27°
Cebu HI 32° Lo 25°	**Tacloban** HI 32° Lo 26°	**Gen. Santos** HI 32° Lo 23°
Zamboanga HI 32° Lo 25°	**Cagayan de Oro** HI 33° Lo 23°	**Davao** HI 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research

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LAKAS EXEC'S LAMENT

'New politics' big letdown

By Carla Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BACOLOD CITY—A ranking official of the Lakas-NUCD in Negros Occidental resigned from the party and others may follow suit in protest over what they said was the party's failure to practice new politics in the province.

Danny Hagad, Lakas-NUCD head of the provincial legal arbitration committee, said Ignacio Arroyo, younger brother of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, distributed party funds to candidates, including those who are running under the United Negros Alliance (UNA).

Arroyo is Lakas-NUCD Western Visayas head. The UNA is a local party whose adviser is businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco, ally of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Hagad said what Arroyo did was a violation of a covenant that states that Lakas members should reject the politics of patronage, mendicancy and greed.

Instead of cracking the party whip, he added, the party hierarchy further violated the covenant by distributing funds even to candidates who joined the UNA.

"This blurs the party lines," Hagad told the INQUIRER.

Another Lakas-NUCD official in the province, who asked not to be identified, said the funds given to UNA candidates Sunday at the Casino Filipino Hotel inside the Goldenfields Commercial Complex in Bacolod.

"The move could be motivated by an agreement with some UNA people to back the PPC (People Power Coalition) senatorial slate," the Lakas official said.

But Arroyo denied that the money was given to Lakas-NUCD members who were running under the UNA.

He said funds were released to Vice Gov. Romeo Gamboa, Lakas-NUCD candidate for governor of Negros Occidental; Negros Occidental Rep. Apolinario Lozada, Lakas-NUCD provincial chair; and Negros Occidental Rep. Edith Villanueva, PPC head in the third district.

He said no money was released to Kabankalan Mayor Isidro Zayco, a Lakas-NUCD member who is running for vice governor under the UNA.

Arroyo said Joseph Marañon, UNA's candidate for governor, can take care of Zayco, his running mate.

He also denied that funds were released to Jose Carlos Lacson, who is running against Villanueva for a House seat in the third district, and Mardi Mapa, a candidate for board member.

Arroyo said it was the prerogative of Lakas-NUCD members to enter into different alliances at the local level.

"There is no such thing as an agreement between Eduardo Cojuangco and the Lakas-NUCD on the political situation in Negros Occidental," he added.

"In fact, we are giving Cojuangco a problem, with the (Macapagal) administration trying to regain control of San Miguel Corp.," Arroyo said.

He said the Lakas-NUCD is backing Gamboa and the rest of its candidates in Negros Occidental.

Sayyaf victim's dad asks GMA: Crush bandits

By Tonette Orejas
and Elizabeth Marcelo
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CASTILLEJOS, Zambales—The father of slain Claretian priest Fr. Rhoel Gallardo urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to carry out her ultimatum on the Abu Sayyaf bandits who killed his son last year.

"There should be justice," said Dominador Gallardo, 62, as the family here was preparing for the first death anniversary of his eldest son Father Rhoel on May 3.

On March 20 last year, the Abu Sayyaf in Basilan took Father Rhoel and 57 members of his flock hostage in Tumahubong, Basilan. On May 3, the bandits killed the 34-year-old Claretian priest and two teachers.

Other hostages who survived the ordeal later recounted that it was the priest who suffered the most in the hands of their captors.

"If an all-out war is the ultimate justification to attain a peaceful solution, let it be done," Gallardo, a former employee at the Subic Naval Base, said.

"How ironic that this year's Holy Week is still marked by military offensives. But these must be done because the Abu Sayyaf bandits are only hostage takers, not rebels with principles," he said.

The President, reiterating her vow to exterminate the Abu Sayyaf if they do not surrender, said recently that "the only peace for them (Abu Sayyaf) is the peace of the graveyard."

Gallardo said it was only "right" for Ms Macapagal to order an all-out war against the bandits who, although professing to fight for an Islamic state in the South, had been on a kidnap-for-ransom rampage since last year.

"They do harm to our society. Justice has to be given (to all victims of the Abu Sayyaf)," he said.

Gallardo appealed to the Abu Sayyaf to heed the President's call and to release the remaining hostage, Filipino diving instructor Roland Ullah, saying it is "inhuman to hold him captive any longer."

"They should seriously consider the President's call for them to surrender because what they are doing is inhumane and all, including their fellow Muslims, oppose their criminal acts," Gallardo said.

Gallardo said he and his family have already come to terms with the reality of the slaying of his son but he would not want anyone else to go through the same experience.

Father Rhoel is the second of five children of Gallardo. He grew up in Zambales but opted to be assigned to Mindanao when he joined the Claretian Missionaries.

He ran the Claretian school in the village of Tumahubong. He was in the first group of hostages taken on March 20, 2000 by the Abu Sayyaf. The group is composed mostly of schoolchildren and teachers who were abducted reportedly to serve as "human shields" against pursuing soldiers.

Ullah was in the second group, composed mostly of foreign tourists, who were taken from the Malaysian island resort of Sipadan a month later.

Less rice subsidy tied to ADB loan

NAGA CITY—The Asian Development Bank has asked the government to lower the subsidy on the prices of *palay* that the National Food Administration buys from farmers as one of the conditions for the release of the Grains Sector Development Program (GSDP) loan.

Agriculture Secretary Leonardo Montemayor said the ADB has set the condition for the release of the second tranche of a $175 million loan that is due for release this year.

Montemayor said the ADB wants the government to lower the prices of *palay* that the NFA buys to P9 to P10 from the current rate of P10.50.

"If we will comply with the ADB condition the government cannot buy anything more than P10," he said.

He added that the international financial institution also asked the government to certify as urgent a bill that will remove trade restrictions for rice importation and replace import limits with tariffs.

Montemayor said he has told the ADB that it was useless to certify a bill that would replace import limits with tariffs because Congress has no more time to act on the matter. He said the bill was expected to be passed in the year 2004.

He said the move to replace import limits with tariffs would preempt international trade negotiations in Geneva.

"Why should we unilaterally give up our protection for rice without getting any concession from other countries?" the agriculture secretary said.

But Montemayor said the Cabinet has decided to set aside for review the conditions that the ADB has imposed for the release of $30 million because he said this will hurt farmers.

PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

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GMA poll fate seen in Mikey's

ANGELES CITY—"Your defeat on May 14 would eventually mean the defeat of your mother in the 2004 presidential elections."

These were the words given by the chair of the Pinoy Gumising Ka Movement (PGKM) to the President's son, Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo, who has requested the group to stop its campaign against his candidacy for vice governor of Pampanga.

The PGKM, who spearheaded the multi-sectoral Resign Estrada Movement of Pampanga a few months ago, is campaigning against Mikey Arroyo due to the younger Arroyo's failure to issue any statement on the clamor of Kapampangans for the full operation of the Clark International Airport.

But after meeting with Arroyo, running mate of reelectionist Gov. Manuel Lapid under the People Power Coalition-Lakas-NUCD, on Wednesday, PGKM chair Ruperto Cruz said they were giving the young Arroyo "a chance to prove his sincerity."

Arroyo told Cruz that he also wants the Clark airport to operate but complained that he does not know anything about the details and issues behind why the airport is not being used for regular international and domestic flights.

Arroyo asked the PGKM to provide him with documents and materials related to the operation of the Clark airport.

"Give me materials so that I would know what I'm going to tell my mother and the people. All I can say is I'm for the operation of the Clark International Airport, then I don't know what to say anymore," he told PGKM officials in Filipino.

During her birthday celebration in Pampanga on April 5, President Macapagal-Arroyo told her *cabalens* (provincemates) that "Clark will continue to be the future site of our country's premier international airport."

"My administration is acknowledging the fact that the airport is the centerpiece of Clark Special Economic Zone," she said in her speech, citing former President Fidel Ramos' Executive Order 174 issued in June 1996.

Ms Macapagal said that she has directed the Department of Transportation and Communications, the Clark Development Corp. and the Clark International Airport Corp. to submit recommendations for the immediate use of the Clark International Airport.

However, Cruz criticized the President for not presenting any concrete plan for the airport. He said Kapampangans are already tired of "lip service."

"We need actions, not promises. We have received promises since 1996 but until now the Clark International Airport remains . . . a vast empty space. The government does not have to study the viability of the airport, all the statistics, information and laws are already available," he said.

Dissatisfied with Ms Macapagal's statement, the PGKM initiated its campaign against the candidacy of Mikey Arroyo and the PPC's senatorial slate.

The group came out with streamers bearing slogans like "No Airport, No to Mikey" and "No to 13-0, Yes to democracy."

Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk

CAMPAIGN TRAIL

POLL SYSTEM BLAMED

'Green' bets endangered species

DAVAO CITY—Like endangered species, "green" or pro-environment politicians are "rare and very hard to find," environmental activists and actors Roy Alvarez and Chin Chin Gutierrez said.

"It's so difficult to find the real green candidate. They are more of a rarity now," Alvarez, program officer of the Mother Earth Foundation and one of the organizers of Earth Day Network 2001, said.

Alvarez said a green candidate should be "well-balanced" in his cause for the environment and other social and political issues like corruption, electoral and political reforms.

Alvarez said there are certain candidates who may have supported bills that are pro-environment like the Clean Air Act but are also associated with some officials who were linked to corruption and other wrongdoings.

Gutierrez, project officer of the Mother Earth Foundation, said a factor that made it difficult for them to find the right "green candidate" is the fact that the nature of the election campaign is still personality-oriented rather than issue-based.

Gutierrez and Alvarez told the INQUIRER at the Royal Mandaya Hotel here Saturday night that issues are drowned out by the focus on the debate between supporters and enemies of ousted President Joseph Estrada.

Gutierrez and Alvarez led a jog for the environment and planted mangroves in a fishing village in the Talomo area as part of Earth Day celebrations Saturday.

Alvarez said they are not endorsing or campaigning for any candidate even as some candidates, like Wigberto Tañada of the People Power Coalition (PPC), have shown good track records in environmental protection.

"Why? Because I believe that the electoral system that we have now is really rotten," Alvarez said, adding whoever wins would not be able to push for effective environmental protection laws and other concerns.

Gutierrez said what makes the country's electoral system rotten is the high cost of the election campaign which makes it highly inaccessible to candidates who are more qualified but have meager resources.

She said the high cost of campaign also makes candidates susceptible to corruption and beholden to interest groups or people who contributed to their campaign kitty.

Gutierrez cited studies indicating that senatorial candidates would need at least P350 million to run a decent campaign.

"If you were a senatorial aspirant who spends P350 million in the campaign, what would you do should you win the elections? Most would try to recoup those investments through whatever means," Gutierrez said. *Jowel Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Erap allies counting on 'Solid North'

BAGUIO CITY—Opposition candidates former First Lady Luisa Ejercito and Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile said they are still confident the "Solid North" will carry them to the Senate on May 14.

Both candidates have Ilocano parents. Ejercito's father hails from Piddig, Ilocos Norte while Enrile's parents come from Cagayan and La Union.

"I think the People Power Coalition will lose overwhelmingly in Regions I (Ilocos) and II (Cagayan Valley)," Enrile said.

The Solid North refers to the bloc voting of Ilocanos that never failed to deliver the votes for the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos during his regime.

In Marcos' time, that meant three million votes.

"*Agpidut da ti botos* (They will be picking their votes)," Enrile said.

"In Vigan (whistleblower Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson's hometown), people came to me and apologized for what happened," Ejercito said, apparently referring to the ouster of her husband Joseph Estrada.

"I received a very warm reception," she said.

Enrile also claimed that in Vigan, barangay captains are promised P20,000 per barangay if they can deliver 13-0 for the PPC candidates.

"I think it will be 13-0 for us (Puwersa ng Masa) instead," he said.

"In Pangasinan, we saw placards saying '*Kahit anong mangyari, Erap pa rin kami*' (Whatever happens, we're still with Erap)," Ejercito said. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

NPAs barred from backing candidates

By Chito Fuentes
PDI Visayas Bureau

TAGBILARAN CITY—New People's Army (NPA) commanders and guerrillas in Central Visayas are not allowed to wear T-shirts that bear the names or faces of candidates in the May 14 elections.

Silvino Clamucha, National Democratic Front (NDF) spokesperson, announced the directive as he denied reports that NPA rebels were actively campaigning against certain candidates in remote barangays.

"That's a very strict order and instruction," Clamucha said in Cebuano when he made a call to radio station dyTR.

There had been reports that the NPA was involved in election activities in some areas in Bohol.

The reports said armed men, who introduced themselves as NPA members, knock on the doors of residents at night in isolated areas to campaign against certain candidates.

Clamucha said they had monitored such incidents in all three guerrilla fronts in Bohol although the manner in which the NPA was used in the campaign was different.

He also confirmed that the guerrillas had monitored the presence of armed goons in certain areas and warned that the NPA would not hesitate to take action.

Clamucha said NPA units would arrest goons operating in their areas and interrogate them on the identities of politicians who employed them.

More peace pacts urged

DAVAO CITY—The government is pushing for the signing of more covenants for honest, orderly and peaceful elections among local candidates in an effort to curb the spate of election-related violence in Mindanao.

Undersecretary Jesus Dureza, presidential assistant for regional concerns in Southern Mindanao, said the government hopes that the covenants would prompt the candidates to keep the elections honest, orderly and peaceful as he vowed to bring warring political forces to the negotiating table.

Dureza on Saturday met with all candidates from the three congressional and legislative districts in this city to appeal for an orderly and peaceful elections.

In his radio program over radio station dxDC here, Dureza said he will try to broker talks among warring political groups, particularly between reelectionist Maguindanao Gov. Zacaria Candao and his rival Andal Ampatuan.

Ampatuan and a convoy of government soldiers on board two trucks survived an alleged ambush by still unidentified armed men in Datu Odin Sinsuat, Maguindanao last week.

But three civilians, two of them children, were killed and six others were seriously wounded when they were caught in the crossfire.

On Saturday, Oscar Torralba, a candidate for mayor of La Paz town, Agusan del Sur, was gunned down after delivering his campaign speech. On Tuesday night, Mayor Lope Asis of Bayugan, also in Agusan del Sur, was gunned down while he was shaking hands with people attending his campaign rally. *Jowel Canuday, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

H No. 8063

Republic of the Philippines
Congress of the Philippines
Metro Manila
Eleventh Congress
Third Regular Session

Begun and held in Metro Manila, on Monday, the twenty-fourth day of July, two thousand.

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9062]

AN ACT GRANTING THE MEDIA ONE BROADCASTING CORPORATION A FRANCHISE TO CONTRUCT, INSTALL, ESTABLISH, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN RADIO AND TELEVISION BROADCASTING STATIONS IN THE PHILIPPINES

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

SECTION 1. *Nature and Scope of Franchise.* — Subject to the provisions of the Constitution and applicable laws, rules and regulations, there is hereby granted to Media One Broadcasting Corporation, hereunder referred to as the grantee, its successors or assigns, a franchise to construct, install, establish, operate and maintain for commercial purposes and in the public interest, radio and/or television broadcasting stations in the Philippines, where frequencies and/or channels are still available for radio and/or television broadcasting, through microwave, satellite or whatever means, including the use of any new technologies in television and radio systems, with the corresponding technological auxiliaries and facilities, special broadcast and other program and distribution services and relay stations.

SECTION 2. *Manner of Operation of Stations or Facilities.* — The stations or facilities of the grantee shall be constructed and operated in a manner as will, at most, result only in the minimum interference on the wavelengths or frequencies of existing stations which may be established by law, without in any way diminishing its own right to use its selected wavelengths or frequencies and the quality of transmission or reception thereon as should maximize rendition of the grantee's services and/or availability thereof.

SECTION 3. *Prior Approval of the National Telecommunications Commission.* — The grantee shall secure from the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) the appropriate permits and licenses for the construction and operation of its stations and facilities and shall not use any frequency in the radio/television spectrum without having been authorized by the Commission. The Commission, however, shall not unreasonably withhold or delay the grant of any such authority.

SECTION 4. *Responsibility to the Public.* — The grantee shall provide adequate public service time to enable the government, through the said broadcasting stations or facilities, to reach the population on important public issues; provide at all times sound and balanced programming; assist in the functions of public information and education; conform to the ethics of honest enterprise; and not use its stations or facilities for the broadcasting of obscene and indecent language, speech, act or scene; or for the dissemination of deliberately false information or willful misrepresentation, to the detriment of the public interest, or to incite, encourage or assist in subversive or treasonable acts:

SECTION 5. *Right of Government.* — A special right is hereby reserved to the President of the Philippines, in times of war, rebellion, public peril, calamity, emergency, disaster or disturbance of peace and order, to temporarily take over and operate the stations or facilities of the grantee, to temporarily suspend the operation of any station or facility in the interest of public safety, security and public welfare, or to authorize the temporary use and operation thereof by any agency of the government, upon due compensation to the grantee, for the use said stations or facilities during the period when they shall be so operated.

The radio spectrum is a finite resource that is a part of the national patrimony and the use thereof is a privilege conferred upon the grantee by the State and may be withdrawn anytime after due process.

SECTION 6. *Term of Franchise.* — This franchise shall be for a term of twenty-five (25) years from the date of effectivity of this Act, unless sooner revoked or cancelled. This franchise shall be deemed *ipso facto* revoked in the event the grantee fails to comply with any of the following conditions:

(a) Commence operations within one (1) year from the approval of its operating permit or provisional authority by the NTC;
(b) Operate continuously for two (2) years; and
(c) Commence operations within three (3) years from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 7. *Acceptance and Compliance.* — Acceptance of this franchise shall be given in writing sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act. Upon giving such acceptance, the grantee shall exercise the privileges granted under this Act. Nonacceptance shall render the franchise void.

SECTION 8. *Bond.* — The grantee shall file a bond issued in favor of the NTC, which shall determine the amount, to guarantee the compliance with and fulfillment of the conditions under which this franchise is granted. If after three (3) years from the date of the approval of its permit by the Commission, the grantee shall have fulfilled the same, the bond shall be cancelled by the Commission. Otherwise, the bond shall be forfeited in favor of the government and the franchise *ipso facto* revoked.

SECTION 9. *Tax Provisions.* — The grantee, its successors or assigns, shall be subject to the payment of all taxes, duties, fees or charges and other impositions under the National Internal Revenue Code (NIRC) of 1997, as amended, and other applicable laws: *Provided*, that nothing herein shall be construed as repealing any specific tax exemptions, incentives, or privileges granted under any relevant law: *Provide, further,* That all rights, privileges, benefits and exemptions accorded to existing and future broadcasting station franchises shall likewise be extended to the grantee

The grantee shall file the return with the city or province where its facility is located and pay the taxes due thereon to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue or his duly authorized representatives in accordance with the NIRC and the return shall be subject to audit by the Bureau of Internal Revenue

SECTION 10. *Self-Regulation by and Undertaking of Grantee.* — The grantee shall not require any previous censorship of any speech, play, act or scene, or other matter to be broadcast from its stations. *Provided*, That the grantee, during any broadcast, shall cut off from the air the speech, play, act or scene, or other matter being broadcast if the tendency thereof is to propose and/or incite treason, rebellion or sedition, or the language used therein or the theme thereof is indecent or immoral; and willful failure to do so shall constitute a valid cause for the cancellation of this franchise

SECTION 11. *Obligation of Grantee.* — Any person aggrieved by any remark, report, statement, commentary or the like by broadcasters using the same facilities of the grantee shall have the right to reply in the same program or any other program the aggrieved party may choose.

SECTION 12. *Warranty in Favor of National and Local Governments.* — The grantee shall hold the national, provincial and municipal governments of the Philippines harmless from all claims, accounts, demands or actions arising out of accidents or injuries, whether to property or to persons, caused by the construction or operation of the stations of the grantee

SECTION 13. *Sale, Lease, Transfer, Usufruct, Etc.* — The grantee shall not lease, transfer, grant the usufruct of, sell nor assign this franchise or the rights and privileges acquired thereunder to any person, firm, company, corporation or other commercial or legal entity, nor merge with any other corporation or entity, nor shall the controlling interest of the grantee be transferred, whether as a whole or in parts and whether simultaneously or contemporaneously, to any such person, firm, company, corporation or entity without the prior approval of the Congress of the Philippines. Any person or entity to which this franchise is sold, transferred or assigned, shall be subject to the same conditions, terms, restrictions and limitations of the Act.

SECTION 14. *Dispersal of Ownership.* — In accordance with constitutional provisions to encourage public participation in public utilities, the grantee shall offer at least thirty percentum (30%) of its outstanding capital stock or a higher percentage that may hereafter be provided by law in any securities exchange in the Philippines within five (5) years from the time it has achieved the status of a national broadcasting network. A "national broadcasting network" is hereby defined as one that operates three (3) or more radio and/or television stations. Noncompliance therewith shall render the franchise *ipso facto* revoked.

SECTION 15. *General Broadcast Policy Law.* — The grantee shall comply with and be subject to the provisions of a general broadcast policy law which Congress may hereafter enact.

SECTION 16. *Equality Clause* — Any advantage, favor, privilege, exemption or immunity granted under existing franchises, or may hereafter be granted, shall *ipso facto* become part of previously granted telecommunications franchises and shall be accorded immediately and unconditionally to the grantees of such franchises: *Provided, however,* That the foregoing shall neither apply to nor affect provisions of telecommunications franchises concerning territory covered by the franchise, the life span of the franchise, or the type of service authorized by the franchise.

SECTION 17. *Separability Clause.* — If any of the sections or provisions of the Act is held invalid, all the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid.

SECTION 18. *Repealability and Nonexclusivity Clause.* — This franchise shall be subject to amendment, alteration or repeal by the Congress of the Philippines when the public interest so requires and shall not be interpreted as an exclusive grant of the privileges herein provided for.

SECTION 19. *Reportorial Requirement.* — The grantee shall submit an annual report to the Congress of the Philippines on its compliance with the terms and conditions of the franchise and on its operations within sixty (60) days from end of every year.

SECTION 20. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its publication, upon the initiative of the grantee, in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,

AQUILINO Q. PIMENTEL JR.
President of the Senate

FELICIANO BELMONTE JR.
Speaker of the House of Representatives

This Act which originated in the House of Representatives was finally passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate on February 6, 2001 and February 5, 2001, respectively.

LUTGARDO B. BARBO
Secretary of the Senate

ROBERTO P. NAZARENO
Secretary General House of Representatives

Approved : APRIL 5, 2001

GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President of the Philippines

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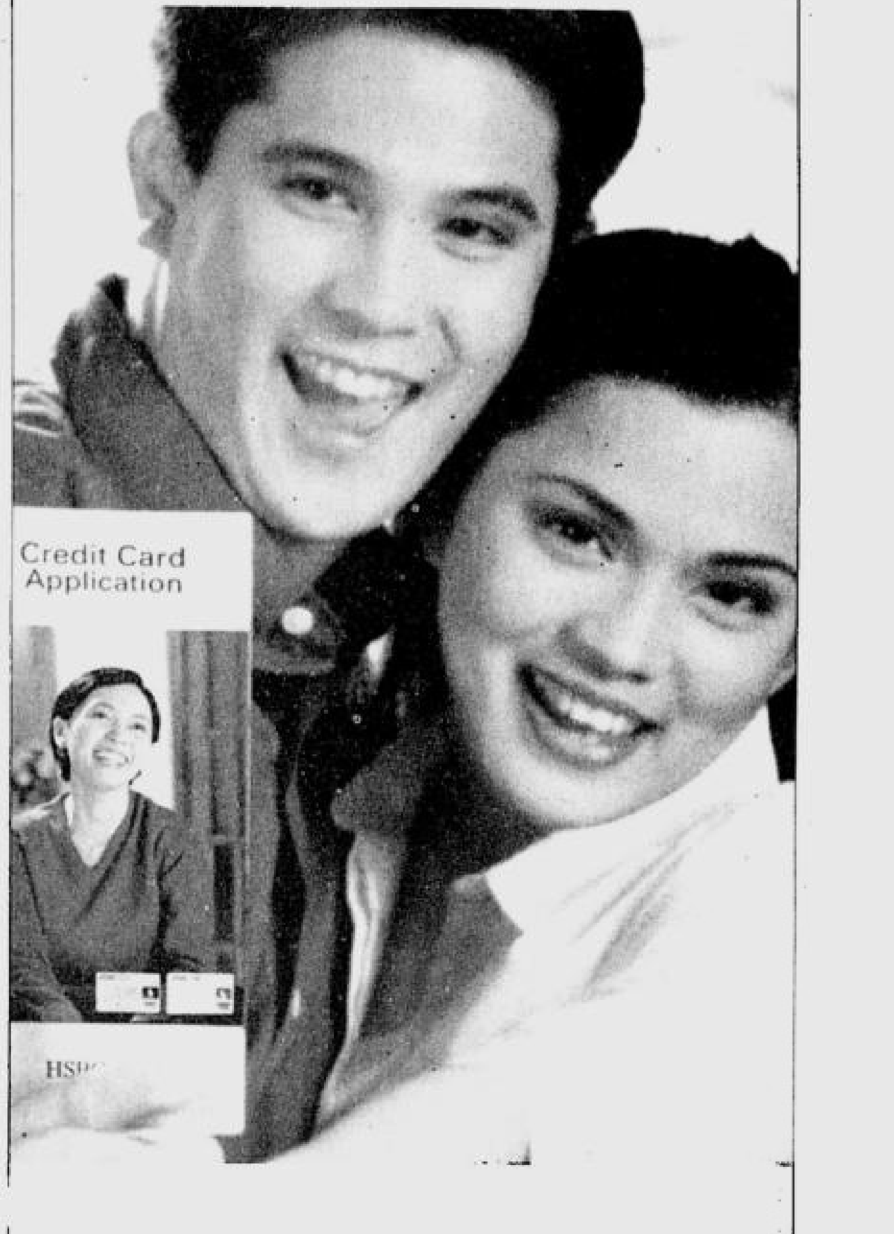

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April 25, 2001 • 9:00 a.m.
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BBA, 1951; Ll.B, 1963

For serving as a model of determination to our youth by proving that one's humble beginnings is no stumbling block in the pursuit of education as attested by your educational attainments: Master in National Security (With Honors), Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of the East; for your sterling performance and outstanding achievements in the service of our country and people, which not only benefited them, but which also gave prestige and honor to your Alma Mater;

For your uncompromising pursuit against criminality, thus earning the trust and confidence of the people when they elected you Mayor of Manila for two terms; for being a modern day crusader whose courage has become legendary, thus making you the most deserving leader against crime as Director of the National Bureau of Investigation and the Secretary of the Department of Interior and Local Government;

For having reaped one distinguished award after another in line with your profession and duties, thus granting you the first TOPP (Ten Outstanding Police of the Philippines) Hall of Fame Award, the 1997 Outstanding Filipino Award for Public Service, the Gintong Ama Award for Government and Public Service, the University of the East Most Outstanding Alumnus for 1994 and Outstanding Alumnus of the College of Law, the 1990 Most Distinguished Alumnus, and a Plaque of Recognition given by His Eminence Jaime Cardinal L. Sin for your commitment to honor and integrity in the performance of your duties, in spite of overwhelming odds;

The University of the East, upon the recommendation of the Academic Council, and by the authority granted to it by the Commission on Higher Education, confers upon you the degree of DOCTOR OF LAWS, *Honoris Causa*, and invests you with the full regalia of your rank with all the rights, privileges and honors thereunto appertaining on this *twenty-fourth day of April, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and one.*

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CL cop chiefs face transfer

CABANATUAN CITY—More than half of the 111 police chiefs in Central Luzon will be reshuffled starting this week to prevent the policemen from engaging in partisan politics and to maintain clean, honest and orderly elections this year, a top regional police official said.

Chief Supt. Enrique Galang, Central Luzon police director, said among those who would be reassigned are the police directors of Bulacan and Olongapo City.

The reassignment, Galang said, would be completed in a week and will take effect until June 14.

He said the reshuffling of police officers, which has been deliberated upon by officials of the regional police command, has been approved by the Commission on Elections.

Galang said police officials who have relatives running for elective posts in their areas and those who have served a town or province for a long period would be reassigned.

"In order to preclude accusations of partiality, the best thing to do is to transfer the concerned police chief," he said.

He said their assessments showed that some police directors in the region have been observed to be "very close" to local candidates that compromised the image of the police forces in their commands.

"We want our police officers to maintain impartiality (in) this election period," he said.

Galang was here Saturday to witness the signing of a covenant for peaceful and honest elections between reelectionist Gov. Tomas Joson III and his rival Rep. Pacifico Fajardo.

The Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting and the multisectoral group "Mahal," an advocate for peaceful, honest and orderly elections, sponsored the covenant signing for the candidates. ***Anselmo Roque, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

Cell site in Danao attacked

CEBU CITY—Two unidentified men lobbed explosives at the Smart Telecommunications cell site in Barangay Looc, Danao City, 33 kilometers north of this city, early Saturday evening.

The blast damaged the guardhouse but did not cause serious damage to the equipment, police said. No one was reported injured.

It was the second blast involving the facilities of a telecommunications company in Danao City. On Dec. 23, an explosion rocked the cell site of Islacom in Barangay Sabang. The bombing was first blamed on the New People's Army but was later blamed on a disgruntled employee.

Supt. Antonio Salvacion, Cebu police director, also dismissed as speculation reports that the NPA was again behind the latest attack on the Smart cell site.

Salvacion said the attack on the Smart cell site could be the work of drunken fishermen, because, he said, the dynamites used were the same as those being used for illegal fishing.

A guard at the cell site was quoted as saying he saw two suspects light dynamites and lob it at the telecommunications facility.

Salvacion said the guard earlier confronted two drunken men for being too noisy. ***Jhunnex Napallacan and Tonton Antogop, PDI Visayas Bureau***

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Estrada seeks to delay arrest

(From page A1)

He said that should the anti-graft court's third division delay the issuance of an arrest warrant, "it will be skirting a very, very tricky and legal position and it might be held to account for impropriety."

The petition is the latest step to keep the former action film star free. Since his ouster amid massive street protests on Jan. 20, he has faced one corruption allegation after another.

Last week, Sandiganbayan Justice Narciso Nario found strong evidence for two of eight cases against Estrada—perjury and graft—and issued arrest warrants.

To avoid jail, Estrada immediately posted bail at the court, where he submitted to mug shots and was fingerprinted.

Estrada was also charged with three other counts of violating the anti-graft law, illegal use of an alias and violation of the law on ethical standards.

Ombudsman Aniano Desierto asked the court Tuesday to let him withdraw all graft charges and the ethical standards violation so prosecutors could focus on the plunder charge.

Three issues

The defense lawyers filed the memorandum with the Sandiganbayan as its third division tried to resolve three issues in connection with the plunder case against Estrada and seven others.

Others named in the charge were the San Juan mayor, businessman Charlie "Atong" Ang, lawyer Edward Serapio, Yolanda Ricaforte, Alma Alfaro, Eleuterio Tan and Delia Rajas.

Among the issues that the anti-graft court wanted resolved are whether it has the power to entertain the motions of the accused and whether they were given the opportunity to file counter-affidavits under the rules on preliminary investigation.

The third issue is whether, in the determination of probable cause, the court can look into violations of the rules on preliminary investigation.

"This court has inherent powers to amend and control its processes and orders and make them conform to truth and justice; especially when the Ombudsman refused to give (Estrada) a chance to present his side," Estrada lawyers Pacifico Agabin and Cleofe Verzola said.

Humiliation

Agabin and Verzola said Ombudsman Desierto did not give Estrada a chance to answer the charges of plunder.

They said Desierto had rushed the filing of eight cases against Estrada, five of which are now being withdrawn, an act that they said gave the Estradas "agony and humiliation."

"The contemptuous recklessness we have seen in the Office of the Ombudsman . . . is now too obvious when he filed motions to withdraw five of the eight information he had filed," the lawyers said.

"Sound judicial discretion dictates that the honorable court should await the action to be taken by the other divisions on the Ombudsman's ex-parte motion to withdraw information before determining the existence of probable cause in this case since the subject of the said information are elements of the plunder case," they added.

Plunder law vague

In a separate memorandum, lawyer Jose Flaminiano, the counsel for "Jinggoy" Estrada, described the plunder law as "vague" and unconstitutional.

The young Estrada has been accused of receiving "jueteng" money from Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson.

Flaminiano questioned the definition of "ill-gotten wealth," the elements of plunder, the criminal forfeiture provision and the "quantum of evidence" needed to convict an accused.

Flaminiano said that the provision stating that a person who participated with the public officer in the commission of the crime of plunder was "constitutionally infirm" as the law does not require the element of "willful knowledge."

"It would be unfair to indict a person under this provision when he may have no knowledge or notice that the offense in which he participated may result in the commission of plunder which is punished with severe penalties," he said.

Flaminiano said the forfeiture provision was also vague because the scope of the interest or property rights to be forfeited was not clear.

As example, he cited a public officer who accumulated cash from illegal sources and mixed them with "legitimate" money.

"Should the court order forfeiture of assets only in such proportions as the assets were derived from the proscribed activity?" Flaminiano asked.

He said the provision on the "rule of evidence" altered "well-entrenched" legal principles and that it violates the due process provision of the Constitution.

Portable toilets, brass band

Estrada supporters are fighting his fight on another front.

At least 2,000 of his followers in Greenhills gathered outside his swank residence in San Juan, vowing to defend him to the death or accompany him to jail. They encamped along one road, blocking traffic.

Now they even have portable toilets, a brass band, sturdier tents, an improved stage and sound system—signs that they're really digging in for battle to prevent an arrest warrant from being served to their beloved Erap.

Die-hard supporters of the indicted former President have visibly become more restive and organized as they massed at the entrances to their idol's residence on Polk Street in North Greenhills.

They have succeeded in snarling traffic at the Greenhills commercial center. They prevented "non-allied" vehicles from using a one-kilometer stretch of road fronting Club Filipino, site of two gates leading to the posh village.

There's now a "command center" where organizers distribute propaganda materials. As if the crowd's incessant shouting of pro-Estrada slogans was not enough, a wooden stage was constructed for anyone who wants to vent his or her ire on the Macapagal administration.

Estrada's supporters contented themselves with staying in makeshift tents of rice sacks and cardboard by the sidewalks before.

But yesterday a tall canopy was erected right in the middle of the road. At least four Portalets were installed.

Raw

But while their logistics began to improve, their passions remained raw. There were sporadic incidents throughout the day of press photographers and cameramen being verbally "harassed" by the menfolk, some of whom were seen carrying sticks.

"The game plan is for these people to prevent the serving of the arrest warrant," a source at the Estrada camp told the INQUIRER. "These people are really ready to fight. They have nothing to lose."

Adolfo Quilapio, 54, who represents a pro-Estrada contingent of Warays, said "if it will come to that then we're prepared to kill or be killed. We will not give up an arm's length of ground. Our movement will always be forward."

But he claimed they would only do battle "*mano-mano* (hand to hand)"—without weapons.

"Stop calling this Edsa III. This is Erap I," said George Alvarez, 32, and ex-Army who is now a barber.

Alvarez and his fellow Erap fanatics had no qualms sleeping on the pavement, with cardboard serving as mattresses.

The INQUIRER saw many children, elderly and pregnant women in the crowd, including a group of four to five teenage girls who, seemingly impervious to the political tension building up around them, killed time picking each other's head for lice.

1st class for 'Masa,' economy for PPC

(From page A1)

candidates were in business class while former first lady Luisa Ejercito flew to General Santos in a private jet *(See related story on Page A1.)*. This prompted Representatives Joker Arroyo and Ernesto Herrera to comment that the opposition belonged to the "Pera ng Masa."

A one-way fare from Manila to General Santos on economy class costs P2.998; business class costs P3,498.

The candidates took PAL Flight 453, which arrived here after 8 a.m., for their respective sorties in the South.

The PPC candidates on board the plane were Herrera, Arroyo, Liwayway Vinzons-Chato, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr., Francis Pangilinan and Rep. Ralph Recto. The PnM candidates who took the same flight were Senators Miriam Santiago and Juan Ponce Enrile and Jamby Madrigal.

Chato said during a news conference at the airport here that she tried to be friendly with Santiago, a fellow law graduate of the University of the Philippines, but she was given the cold shoulder. She said she approached Santiago, tapped her shoulder and greeted, "Hi, Miriam."

"She looked at me and then she looked at what she was doing, but I didn't hear anything from her," Chato said.

"*Kung irap nga yon, mahilig naman sila ng (E)rap, kaya yon ang binigay sa amin panay Irap* (If that were a snub, they like Erap, anyway)," she added.

"*Irap*" is a dismissive gesture made by quickly turning one's face away from the other person.

Chato said that the senatorial race was supposed to be just a "political fight," not a "personal" one.

Richelle Sy, a reporter of GMA 7 and who was on the plane with the candidates, said that Santiago also snubbed Arroyo when he tried to greet the senator.

Enrile friendliest

Enrile was the friendliest of the PnM candidates, the PPC candidates found out. They said he took time to greet and engage in small talk with them.

"Only Enrile was the one who was game. He was talking to us but the others were sort of aloof," Herrera told reporters.

Arroyo said he was able to chat with Enrile and jokingly said that the latter was joining the PPC.

Arroyo said that the PnM candidates were able to get "free media coverage because of us." He pointed out that Manila-based reporters were in Mindanao to cover the PPC.

He added that the presence of the PnM bets here and in other parts of Mindanao in the next few days at the same time with the PPC was "a game of follow the leader."

"We pave the way, they always follow," he said.

Herrera, on the other hand, said the PnM was apparently "following our trail probably because they were worried they might find out that they don't have support, especially in this part of Mindanao."

'Erap country'

For the second time since the election campaign started two months ago, the two camps are holding rallies at the same time in Mindanao, which is considered to be a bailiwick of the opposition and of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

The PPC candidates will be in this city for one day to start the final leg of its senatorial campaign with a 13-day "victory run" across the country. They will be travelling by car to demolish perceptions that the South was "Erap country."

Later in Polomolok, South Cotabato, some pro-Estrada residents jeered the PPC candidates during a whistle-stop in the town. The residents gave a "thumbs down" sign and chanted "Erap pa rin" as the candidates went around the town. They also shouted, "13-0 pero para kay Erap."

Court junks Santiago suit vs Manoling

(From page A1)

senatorial elections wherein she was a candidate, and that the couple "is noted for it, anyway."

Morato made the statements in a column titled "Uncensored," which was then being published by the People's Journal.

The case was filed in court only in November 1996.

The editor of the paper, Alex Allan, was included in the libel suit. He was also acquitted by Judge Zenaida Daguna of Manila RTC Branch 19.

In a 13-page decision, Daguna said she had found neither defamatory imputation nor malice in the column.

The judge said personalities like the Santiagos were "being onion-skinned" if they felt defamed or libeled by the statements made by Morato.

"They are public figures and such kind of publicity is commonplace," she said, adding that the Santiagos should have the "stamina" for criticisms and bad publicity.

Morato said Narciso Santiago and another columnist, Emil Jurado, met in a restaurant on June 24 1994, the former carrying a "heavy portfolio."

"Who carried the portfolio out of the restaurant?" he wrote, and followed up the question with a tirade against people engaging in bribery to manipulate the people's minds.

Daguna said the one who should have filed the complaint was Jurado.

"The author here is perceived to be calling the attention of Emil Jurado, that he is being suspected of peddling lies or praises . . . That's all," Daguna said. "Beyond that is already paranoia. It is like (making) a mountain out of a molehill."

Morato, a former chair of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, told reporters that his acquittal was "one headache less" in his current campaign for a seat in the Senate.

Bag, not portfolio

In his suit, Narciso Santiago, who served as interior undersecretary in the Estrada administration, claimed that he had never intended to meet with Jurado.

He said he had gone to the restaurant with his two lawyers, along with former Gov. Antonio Leviste, to confer with them about a case involving his wife "and some business proposal."

He denied carrying a portfolio. He said that while he owned one, what he brought along was a bag where he usually put his pistol.

He also said Morato's statements maligned, defamed and insulted him and his wife and also affected their children, who sometimes refused to go to school because their classmates were teasing them about the issue.

In his defense, Morato said he did not make any direct accusation of bribery because most of the statements in his column that were directed at Jurado were in question form.

He said the Santiagos should not have been slighted by his statements because he and the couple had been publicly trading insults for some time.

He denied being antagonistic toward Miriam Santiago, and said he harbored no ill will against her. He also said that as a columnist, he was aware of his limits.

Advice

"I was merely trying to give them advice," a grinning Morato told reporters after the court adjourned.

He later took the opportunity to push his senatorial campaign to curious City Hall employees and other people who had gathered in the court.

Viña admits knowing of Dacer kidnap-slay

(From page A1)

driver a "few days" after the crime, an intelligence official disclosed yesterday.

"Viña admitted his men informed him about the murders a few days after Dacer and Corbito were declared missing and feared dead. He said his men panicked and called him up to seek help because they were afraid for their lives," said Chief Supt. Nestorio Gualberto, chief of the Philippine National Police Criminal Investigation and Detection Group.

"His men insisted they were told the operation was legitimate," Gualberto said.

It was reported earlier that the PAOCTF agents were told that the victims were leaders of a kidnapping ring.

When Viña's name was dragged into the case shortly after Dacer and driver Emmanuel Corbito were abducted on Nov. 24 last year, he denied any knowledge of the disappearance of the two.

Asked what Viña did after learning of the murders, Gualberto said he could not reveal that information because investigators were still trying to verify Viña's claims.

Viña, who persuaded seven of his subordinates to surrender to police authorities earlier this month, has denied participation in the Dacer-Corbito murders but confirmed that his men carried out the abduction and killings.

Gualberto said investigators have yet to determine whether or not Viña, who is still under "tactical interrogation" after more than a week, will be charged as one of the suspects in the double murder case.

"Viña is very cooperative. He has to cooperate if he wants to clear his name . . . In a bid to clear his name, he promised to convince his men to identify who gave them the orders to abduct and kill Dacer and Corbito," Gualberto said.

"At this point, Viña is being held responsible for the illegal and criminal actions of his men considering that he was their immediate superior at the time the crime was committed," he added.

"Viña knew that with these serious roles in the murders, his men were in serious trouble. And he knew, too, that he could be held liable for his men's illegal acts being their immediate superior," he said.

22 suspects

So far, the PNP has identified 22 suspects, 14 of whom were officers of the PAOCTF under Panfilo Lacson. The others were civilian agents retained by the agency.

"Viña maintained he was in Cebu when the abduction and killings happened," Gualberto said.

NBI lawyer Antonio Suarez apparently made a blooper when he filed additional information naming more suspects in the double murder case in the DOJ records section.

DOJ state prosecutor Ramon Carretas told Suarez that he should have submitted the additional information directly to the special panel which Carretas heads since it is handling the case.

Suarez downplayed his error, saying the additional information was submitted only for purposes of "consolidation."

The four-page document named 10 more suspects, aside from the 12 already named by witnesses.

Gualberto said Viña was implicated in the double murder case because of the participation of his men led by Chief Insp. Vicente Arnado and SPO4 Mariano Soberano and some civilian agents.

For this reason, Gualberto said Viña negotiated for seven of the suspects to surrender to PNP chief Director General Leandro Mendoza. Mendoza immediately placed them under protective custody, Gualberto said.

Those who sought protective custody were Soberano, SPO3 Jose Escalante, SPO1 Mauro Torres and civilian agents Crisostomo Purificacion, Renato Malabanan, Jovencio Malabanan and Rommel Rollan.

The seven suspects, along with Insp. Bobby Lancaouan, were presented to the media last week.

PAOCTF civilian agents Jimmy Lopez, his brother William, Digo de Pedro and Alex Diloy were either arrested by or surrendered to the National Bureau of Investigation.

Arnado remains at large. The other suspects who remain at large are Supt. Glenn Dumlao, SPO4 Benjamin Taladua, SPO2 Mario Sarmiento, SPO1 Thomas Sarmiento, SPO3 William Reed III, a certain SPO2 Villanueva, a certain PO3 Lasandile, SPO1 Ruperto Nemeno, and civilian agent Margarito Cuenco.

Based on suspects' accounts, Dacer and Corbito were abducted and killed on the same day by different teams of agents. The victims were strangled and their corpses burned.

P1-M check

The National Bureau of Investigation said yesterday that it was puzzled over a P1-million check issued by former PNP chief Panfilo "Ping" Lacson Jr. in 1995 to Dacer, who was a controversial publicist whose clients included many politicians.

In a press conference, NBI Director Reynaldo Wycoco said that the investigation of the Dacer case took on a new twist after NBI agents discovered the check in the course of the probe, which marks its 5th month today.

In a statement, Lacson clarified that the check was issued as a down payment for Dacer's PR services in the Kuratong Baleleng case.

He said the PR contract with Dacer was canceled because the anti-crime agency "could not raise the professional fee being asked by Dacer."

During a Senate hearing on the Dacer case last week, Lacson admitted that he was commissioned by the agents implicated in the Kuratong Baleleng case to get Dacer's services but decided to withdraw from the contract.

Payment stopped

Wycoco said that Lacson issued the check on Sept. 18, 1995.

He distributed to reporters a photocopy of PCI Bank Check No. 107314A from Lacson's current account No. 4132-00421-7 with PCI Bank (now Equitable PCI Bank) branch in BF Homes in Parañaque.

"I think he should explain this," said Wycoco.

He also asked Lacson to explain why he stopped payment of the check the following day.

"It appeared from the bank records that Dacer tried to deposit the check the following day, to no avail," he said.

Lacson replied: "I was commissioned by the group, our group, to get in touch with him for our PR effort. When we couldn't afford the fee, we withdrew from the contract. That is most probably the reason that payment was stopped on the check."

Wycoco said the check was "very interesting since some funds of the PAOCTF (and its precursor, the PACC) were (reportedly) used in the personal activities of some PAOCTF officials."

Wycoco said the check could prove whether or not police funds were used for personal or other business ventures of certain officials the disbanded PAOCTF.

The spokesperson and some candidates of the administration-backed People Power Coalition said they want Lacson to explain a string of criminal cases allegedly committed by the PAOCTF under his command.

In a statement, PPC spokesperson Conrado "Dodi" Limcaoco said Lacson "cannot just go scot-free" in connection with alleged criminal activities committed by the PAOCTF.

DOJ resets probe

For their part, justice officials have reset the preliminary investigation of the murders after a lawyer representing three suspects asked for time to answer the accusations hurled at them by the NBI.

Lawyer Rogelio Agoot, counsel for Soberano, Torres and Escalante, asked for five days to file their counter-affidavits.

Torres was the agent who allegedly strangled Dacer.

State prosecutors reset the preliminary investigation to May 4 to allow the suspects to respond to the charges based on accounts given by witnesses Alex Diloy and Jimmy Lopez.

'Least guilty'

Quoting Mario Benavidez, a cigarette vendor who allegedly witnessed Dacer's abduction, the NBI charged SPO1 Nemeno and PO2 Sarmiento as two of those who seized the victims at the corner of Osmeña Highway and Zobel Roxas Street in Makati.

Those who participated in bringing the two men to Cavite for execution allegedly included SPO4 Soberano, SPO3 Escalante, Purificacion, P/Supt. Dumlao, P/C Insp. Arnado, P/Insp. Lancaouan, SPO1 Sarmiento, SPO1 Reed and SPO4 Taulava.

Witness Lopez and SPO1 Torres were named as those who received Dacer and Corbito in Indang, Cavite, when brought there by Soberano, Purificacion, Taulava and Sarmiento.

The NBI recommended that William Lopez be placed under the government's witness protection program and be utilized as a state witness.

The bureau said William "appears to be the least guilty among several suspects," hence the recommendation.

With a report from Juliet Javellana

It's Castro . . .

(From page A1)

agent's complaint-affidavit against Castro and Edilberto Marcos. The FBI also wanted to know whether Castro, who headed the PCGG from September 1990 until June 1992, was still connected with the government.

The former official was reportedly arrested in a sting operation after allegedly claiming that he was authorized to collect taxes on transactions involving Marcos gold.

"Castro described himself as a representative of the Philippine government. He confirmed that (Edilberto) Marcos owned a considerable amount of gold. Castro also explained that he was present at the meeting to collect taxes due to the government of the Philippines as a result of any transaction involving the gold," the court affidavit read.

Sarmiento repeated that Castro was no longer with the PCGG and had no authority to transact business in the behalf of the government.

"We have answered the FBI, but as of now we're still waiting if they would need closer coordination with us for the investigation," he said.

Smear job by generals?

But Castro's son, a lawyer, downplayed the PCGG's confirmation, saying, "the whole thing is still under question."

The elder Castro is "still confined at a New York hospital" where he is undergoing treatment for high blood pressure, Solomon said, but he did not name the hospital for "security reasons."

"But he is okay and he is coming home very soon," he said.

"If (the arrest is) true, then what is my dad doing in the hospital? Did they (FBI) arrest him to bring him to a hospital?" he asked.

The younger Castro said his family was "determined" to clear its patriarch's name and win the legal battle in New York.

He insisted that the charges were part of an alleged smear campaign.

A family member who asked not to be named said "trustees" of the late dictator Marcos were behind the smear job.

The trustees include Marcos administration "military generals," the relative claimed.

"We know who they are and they've been doing this campaign to besmirch (Castro's) reputation since he joined the PCGG. Marcos' assets are registered under their names," the relative added.

Used to it

Solomon said in another interview that his father "is used to this kind of thing. He's been getting into trouble by telling the truth."

He said Castro had "invested the best years of his life in his advocacy—the recovery of the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses."

"That's his motivation," said Solomon. "Before nobody believed him about his findings (on the Marcos assets) but he's been vindicated."

Solomon reiterated that his father's "resolve to pursue the truth about the Marcos hidden wealth is even stronger now and greater than those who seek to hide the truth or those who wish to recover the wealth for themselves."

He also said some members of the family would be flying to New York to lend support for Castro. "He knows the risks and we're determined to fight it out in New York. We will face whatever is pending there."

Real or fake?

In the complaint, FBI special agent Ronald Henderson claimed that Marcos tried to sell him a fake $20-million share of an $800-million gold certificate that the former claimed belonged to the Marcos family.

The gold was stored in the Union Bank of Switzerland (UBS), according to the "Marcos son."

An INQUIRER source who claimed to have cooperated with the FBI in providing information about Marcos, aka Edilberto del Carmen, said that while the latter's documents were fake, the $800-million gold certificate was authentic.

But Sarmiento yesterday said that the gold certificate was fake.

The acting PCGG chair expressed confidence that Castro did not have in his possession any authentic documents from the PCGG relating to the Marcoses' alleged ill-gotten wealth.

Bouncing checks

The South China Morning Post in Hong Kong, which reported the arrest on Saturday, said Castro was the director of Metro Grant Holdings, a company set up by Marcos last year in Hong Kong.

The sting was set up after a New York security firm hired by Marcos in December approached authorities to complain, the Post reported.

When Marcos' personal checks for the security services bounced, Marcos allegedly gave the firm a fictitious gold certificate issued by UBS.

The US Federal Reserve told the firm the security was fake but Marcos had insisted it could be cashed with special codes, the Post said.

The Post said Marcos is wanted by Hong Kong's anti-graft authorities over an alleged international plot to obtain credit using $148 billion in fake US Federal Reserve notes.

Hong Kong authorities are in contact with the US Department of Justice about the possible extradition to Hong Kong of the man claiming to be Marcos' son, the Post reported.

In 1999, Castro claimed that he had entered into an agreement with the Estrada administration in connection with "Project Recovery," an alleged operation to recover the undisclosed assets of the Marcoses, including the alleged $13.2-billion account under Irene Araneta's name.

Malacañang rejoinder

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

WHAT'S with these people in Malacañang? To my thinking some of them are good in dodging their duty and, sadly, regarding sports as a poor relation and treating it as one.

Last April 9, I wrote that this new government "seems not to know the importance of sports, that it is not its priority and therefore does not enjoy the attention it needed." I mentioned in particular Executive Secretary Renato de Villa who "snubbed" the opening of the recent 4th South East Asia Basketball Association men's championship.

I also mentioned that President Macapagal did not appear in the "Banquet of Champions" at the Manila hotel where she was the special guest in the awards dinner hosted by the family of the late boxing legend, Gabriel "Flash" Elorde.

In response, lawyer Waldo Q. Flores, the senior deputy executive secretary, sent this rejoinder dated April 10 excerpts of which I am publishing:

"Executive Secretary de Villa was not able to attend the inaugural ceremonies of the Seaba men's championship at the Rizal Coliseum due to an urgent conference which he needed to preside. Instead, he called on me, his Senior Deputy Executive Secretary, to represent him. The opening ceremonies as stated in the invitation of BAP president Tiny Literal would start at 2:00 p.m. I arrived twenty (20) minutes ahead of schedule, only to be told that the opening was moved earlier to 1:00 p.m. due to the request of ABS-CBN. Mr. Literal personally apologized to me for his failure to communicate the change in schedule.

"With regards to your claim this administration has not taken steps with respect to the grievances of the athletes who marched to Malacañang recently, please be informed that Secretary De Villa after meeting with the athletes and likewise meeting and hearing the side of Chairman Carlos Tuason, rendered a full report to President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo informing the President of the grievances against Mr. Tuason, with the President annotating a handwritten instruction thereon, to wit: "Chairman Tuason, please address these problems.

"Likewise enclosed is the memorandum from the Executive Secretary dated April 5, 2001, informing Chairman Tuason of the President's instructions with an order directing him to answer in writing the issues raised against him and submit to the President through the Office of the Executive Secretary the actions taken and the results thereof, regarding the said instruction. The President is awaiting Mr. Tuason's reply.

"Thus, your perception that this administration does not care about sports or has not taken steps to look into the grievances of the athletes is a bit misplaced."

Misplaced? Don't think so.

It is on record that I have been repeatedly telling our good-for-nothing and overstaying sports leaders that if they truly love their country, they should resign and allow fresh blood to infuse new life and save our dying sports. I have also been assailing sports officials for spending taxpayers' money on unnecessary travels abroad, renovations and construction projects, resulting in meager athletes' allowances, deplorable living conditions in their quarters and the failure to purchase even the athletes' most basic needs such as food, vitamins, uniforms and training equipment.

CPU, Boom Boom booters advance

CENTRAL Philippines University (CPU) of Iloilo and local team Boom Boom Real Coffee will represent Iloilo Province to the Rexona National Beach Football Championship in Dumaguete City later this year.

CPU, led by Most Valuable Player Cyson Altis, topped the five-team elimination round with three wins and a draw, while Boom Boom Real Coffee earned the other finals slot in the Rexona Visayas Mindanao Cup with its 2-1-1-draw-loss slate.

In the final of the event, hosted by Summer Place in the Island Paradise of Boracay and also supported by Adidas, San Miguel Super Dry, Viva Mineral Water, SBMA, and Summit Publishing, CPU blanked Boom Boom, 7-0, to win the crown.

Capriati triumphs

CHARLESTON, South Carolina— Australian Open champion Jennifer Capriati defeated World No. 1 Martina Hingis 6-0, 4-6, 6-4 here Sunday to capture a 1.2 million-dollar clay court tuneup for the French Open.

In a rematch of January's Australian Open final, the 25-year-old American used an overpowering first set to subdue the 20-year-old Swiss star, rising to 23-4 for the season by taking the $178,000 top prize. *AFP*

Age group tennis

THE COUNTRY'S top junior netters see action today in the Head-Penn Age Group Tennis Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

The six-day tournament supported by Chris Sports, Dreyers Ice Cream, Agfa and Red Bull Supreme will have competitions in the boys' and girls' 18-under, 16-under, 14-under, 12-under and unisex 10-under divisions.

Filipina netters shine

THE PHILIPPINE women's tennis squad composed of Jennifer Saret, Czarina Mae Arevalo and Vida Lina Alpuerto outclassed Hong Kong-China, 3-0, to rule the Federation Cup Asia-Oceania qualifying event held recently in Kaoshiung, Chinese Taipei.

The RP team, mentored by 1962 Jakarta Asian Games gold medalist Johnny Jose, defeated Singapore, 3-0, to advance against Hong Kong-China which conquered Malaysia, 2-1.

9 GMs ENTERED

Asian Chess Zonal on today

FILIPINO grandmasters are expected to encounter stiff opposition when the Asian Zonal Chess Championship begins today at the Laguna Ballroom of the Grand Boulevard Hotel.

Defending champion Dao Thien Hai of Vietnam heads six Asian GMs out to frustrate the title aspirations of local stalwarts Eugene Torre, Joey Antonio and Bong Villamayor.

Torre, Antonio and Villamayor placed first, second and third, respectively, in the recent National Open Chess Championship.

"This is a very strong field since you have nine GMs and a woman GM in the tournament. I would even say that this is the strongest ever, since 11 years ago when Malaysia hosted the Zonal in 1990," said Ignatius Leung, president of Zone 3.2a.

The other GMs are Indons Utut Adianto and Edhi Handoko, Mongolia's Bazar Hatan Batar and Dash Zeveg Sharavdorj and Vietnamese Nguyen Anh Dun.

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo will be the guest of honor and speaker of the nine-round, Swiss system tournament organized by the National Chess Federation of the Philippines.

Arroyo will also do the ceremonial moves with Pagcor chair Efraim Genuino.

Other Filipino entries are international masters Chito Garma and Mark Paragua, NMs Allan Sayson and Jayson Gonzales, Darwin Laylo and Yves Ranola, Fide master Fernie Donguines. WIM Beverly Mendoza, national women's champion Joann Toledo and Palawan's Rusela Joya will challenge favorite Vietnamese woman GM Hoang Thanh Trang.

Ong registers sweep in GP; David sparkles

SUBIC—Ferdinand Ong of Rota-Speedwelle-Outlast Battery swept the third and fourth rounds of the Blaze super saloon category, even as Mikko David and Carlos Anton shared the limelight in the production class in the Petron Grand Prix at the Subic International Raceway.

Hardly bothered by the presence of his older and more-experienced rivals, Ong outduelled Nilo Pazcoguin in the third round and Mike Aguilar in the fourth round to take the overall lead in this prestigious series organized by the Sports Values Inc. (SVI) and sponsored by Petron Corp.

Louie Ramirez of Petron-SRA finished third in both rounds.

Kookie Ramirez of Petron-SRA, who topped the season-opening first round in another Honda Civic on April 7-8, finished only fourth in the third round and fifth in the fifth round.

"I'm satisfied with my performance this weekend. I'm in good shape and the car is in perfect condition right now," said Ong, who also emerged as super saloon B champion last year and super saloon C winner in 1999.

"Hopefully, I can sustain the momentum until the final rounds and finally capture the title in this prestigious series," added Ong.

The 33-year old former slalom and rally campaigner seized the lead as early as the third lap and never looked back from there despite the hot pursuit of Aguilar and Pazcoguin.

Aguilar settled for top honors in the third round of super saloon B over Pazcoguin and Benedict de la Cruz, while Pazcoguin got his consolation in the fourth round over De la Cruz and Aguilar.

In super saloon C, Ricardo Loi of La loera-Agip-GNC and Tom Pastor of Team TEC dominated the third and fourth rounds, respectively.

David defeated the Team TEC duo of Enzio Pastor and Carlo Pastor in the third round, while Anton outclassed Pastor, David and Clifford Certeza in the fourth round.

Clerk of course Rolen Paulino awarded the trophies to the winners immediately after the races.

SANTI Elizalde (second from left) of White is about to deflect an attempt by Blue's Anthony Garcia (right) in this bit of action during the Ewald Selph Cup last Sunday at the Manila Polo Club. At extreme left is Blue's Freddie Borromeo. Blue won, 8-3.
ROGER CARPIO

Blue captures Selph Cup

By Dennis U. Eroa

ANTHONY Garcia dazzled his way to six goals as Blue whipped White, 8-3, and captured the Ewald Selph Cup last Sunday at the Manila Polo Club.

The event was held in celebration of the centennial of the law firm of Ortega, Del Castillo, Bacorro, Odulio, Calma, and Carbonell. The Cup is named after Ewald E. Selph, a former partner of the firm and has been a traditional summer polo match featuring the country's top riders.

Garcia, a 4-goaler, teamed up with his father and MPC president Tony, Vince Del Rosario and Freddie Borromeo in beating the White which got a goal each from Santi Elizalde, Pete Felix and Anthony Villarosa. The other members were Sonny Borromeo and Joe Lufkin (alternate).

Showing mastery of his mount, the young Garcia was always ahead of the pack. By the 2nd chukker, Garcia's long roller gave the Blues a 5-0 lead. The elder Garcia made it 6-0, with a free hit from 20 yards at the start of the 3rd chukker.

Elizalde, a 2-goaler, finally put the Whites into the leaderboard with a beautiful back roller, 6-1, but it was clear as the bright sunshine draping the ground that the Blues were headed for a romp.

Heading the awarding ceremonies were lawyers Gregorio F. Ortega, Tomas O. Del Castillo, Benjamin T. Bacorro, Elizer A. Adulio, Renato G. Calma and Pedro M. Carbonell. The Philippine Marines Drum & Bugle Corp entertained the appreciative crowd with fancy drills and up-tempo music.

Jack Clark Jr. of the US Embassy and Anthony Filamor were umpire and referee, respectively. William S. Warne and David de Padua provided the audience with lively play-by-play account.

The law firm counts among its clientele local and multinational companies engaged in manufacturing, trading, shipping, aviation, banking, mass media, real estate development and charities.

Ortega, the most senior partner of the firm, was conferred the title Member of the Order of the British Empire.

Kings fall at home; Lakers, Knicks win

NEW YORK—The playoffs have not been kind to the Sacramento Kings. Even their huge home-court advantage let them down in the postseason opener.

Shawn Marion scored 21 points and Jason Kidd had 18 points and 14 assists as the Phoenix Suns stunned the Kings 86-83 Sunday.

The Kings have never won a playoff series since moving to Northern California. The Kings couldn't get ahead in this series, either, even though they played at Arco Arena where they only lost eight regular-season games.

The Suns were the only ones enjoying themselves. They silenced a raucous home crowd with their first victory in a series opener since 1997.

In other NBA playoff openers Sunday, it was New York 92, Toronto 85; Los Angeles Lakers 106, Portland 93; and Milwaukee 103, Orlando 90.

In first games of series on Saturday, Indiana beat Philadelphia, Utah topped Dallas, San Antonio edged Minnesota and Charlotte routed Miami.

Charlotte looks to take a 2-0 lead Monday at Miami. In the only other game, Minnesota can even its series with a victory at San Antonio.

Game 2 is Wednesday night in Sacramento.

Knicks 92, Raptors 85

Kurt Thomas knocked Vince Carter to the floor the first time he went to the basket, setting the tone for a terrible afternoon for Carter and visiting Toronto.

Carter finished 5-for-22 from the field for 13 points. He did not score over the final 8 ½ minutes as the Knicks controlled the fourth quarter.

Lakers 106, Trail Blazers 93

Kobe Bryant scored 25 of his 28 points in the second half, and Shaquille O'Neal had 24 points and 20 rebounds for defending NBA champion Los Angeles.

SPORTSWATCH

Delasin lands 25th

DOROTHY Joy Delasin put on a big windup of two birdies on the closing four holes for a one-under 71 yesterday that got her a share of 25th place in the Long Drugs Challenge at the Twelve Bridges Golf Club in Lincoln, California. Delasin earned $6,843 in the series won by Korean Se Ri Pak, whose 71 stopped Annika Sorenstam's winning streak at four. Jenny Rosales wound up near the cellar after a closing 77. She checked in tied for 81st at 266 and earned a measly $775. Meanwhile, Frankie Miñoza fell one step lower to fifth place in the Japanese Tour money list after his 39th place showing in the recent Kirin Open. *Jong Arcano*

Sutton prevails by 3

THE WOODLANDS, Texas— Hal Sutton fired a three-under par 69 in windy conditions here Sunday to win the $3.4 million PGA Houston Open by three strokes over Americans Lee Janzen and Joe Durant. Sutton finished at 10-under par 278 at the TPC course to win his first title of the season. "I feel quite fortunate to finish on top," Sutton said. Only 15 of 73 players cracked par here Sunday in tricky breezes, including Janzen, who fired a 73, and Durant, the 54-hole leader who carded a 74. The 7,018-yard course played an average of 73.96 strokes in the final round. Sutton started the day two strokes behind Durant but birdied the first two holes and had at least a share of the lead the rest of the day. *AFP*

Mandaluyong derby

MANDALUYONG Coliseum's "Prince Jerome Jobo 6-Cock Derby" will have it's elimination round today beginning at 6 p.m. with more than 40 exciting and quality fights on tap. The championship round of the event sponsored by Sagupaan Super Feeds and Lakpue Drug is on Thursday, April 26. Veteran Lito Orillaza, derby host, has invited cockers from the Araneta Coliseum-based National Cockers Association (NCA), United Cockers Association of the Philippines (Ucap) plus participants from Pasay, Parañaque and Rizal province.

RP joining hockey meet

THE PHILIPPINES is set to participate in the annual regional ice hockey tournament to be held in Hong Kong on April 26-29, sending two teams to represent the country. The Manila Tigers and Manila Typhoons, two groups of 11-12-year-old boys and girls from SM Southmall and SM Megamall respectively are the country's official entries to the Asian Hockey Regional Championship. Deric Cadiz, Manila Tigers club association president, said the boys and girls will be competing in the Pee Wee division (11-12 yrs.) against teams from Hong Kong, Singapore, Beijing, Kuala Lumpur and the United States.

Welcoat slight pick vs Montaña

GAMES TODAY : (Makati Coliseum) PYBL
9:00 a.m.—Regent CheeseBalls vs Spring Oil
10:45 a.m.—Univ. of Assumption vs Whiz Oil
12:30 p.m.—Univ. of the Philippines vs NU
PBL 3:30 p.m.—Welcoat Paints vs Montaña
5:30 p.m.—Hapee vs PharmaQuick

DEFENDING champion Welcoat continues its agonizing climb to the top of the leaderboard as it tackles Montaña Pawnshop today in the PBL Chairman's Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

After finally solving its tendency to collapse in the homestretch with a 78-74 win over GIV Beauty Soap on April 19, Welcoat (2-3) is slightly favored to prevail over Montaña, which is trying to gain consistency.

The game is set at 3:30 p.m., followed by the 5:30 encounter between Hapee Toothpaste (1-3) and PharmaQuick (2-3).

Power playing Francis Zamora, a former Welcoat player, Jacques Gottenbos, Orly Torrente, Gilbert Lao and Aries Dimaunahan will lead Montaña's attack.

The 6-foot-5 Zamora, Montaña's leading rebounder and leader, and Lao will have their hands full against Welcoat's Yancy de Ocampo and Derick Canlas. Montaña must also find a way to stop Ren Ren Ritualo from shooting the lights out of the coliseum.

Dennis Eroa

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Ban women from boxing

PERTH, Australia—Women should be banned from boxing to prevent further serious injuries in the ring, former Australian world boxing champion Jeff Fenech said here Monday. His outspoken condemnation of women in the sport came after Australian amateur boxer, Patricia Devellerez, 26, of Perth, was hospitalized after being knocked out in a bout in New Zealand at the weekend. *AFP*

SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ■ **EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA**, Assistant Editor

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GOLF: LPGA Long Drugs Challenge, Third Round at 1 p.m. on ESPN

HOCKEY: NHL Conference Quarterfinals at 7 a.m. (r- tomorrow at 12:30 a.m.) on ESPN

Schedules subject to change without prior notice.

$100-M fight between Lewis, Tyson off

'The real cash cow for Rahman would be Tyson'

JOHANNESBURG—The prospect of a money-spinning $100-million showdown between Lennox Lewis and Mike Tyson was shattered when Hasim Rahman landed his devastating right-hander here Sunday.

Rahman stunned the world of boxing when he upset Lewis in a dramatic world title fight at Johannesburg's Carnival City with a fifth-round knockout.

While Lewis was reflecting on the loss of his WBC and IBF belts, his handlers will also be contemplating the fact that plans for a lucrative cash bonanza between Tyson and their boxer have now had to go on ice.

The bout, a subject of much wrangling between the Tyson and Lewis camps, was being tipped to become the first 100-million-dollar fight.

Lewis is hoping for a speedy return to the summit of the heavyweight heap by enforcing the re-match clause contained in his fight agreement with Rahman.

However the picture is clouded by the fact that the new champion's management have already indicated they will seek to squeeze in a voluntary defense before any re-match with Lewis, which must be held within five months.

RAHMAN: Big bucks await him. AP

The fact that Rahman remains untied to any of the major US television networks leaves his management in a strong position. They will be able to listen to every offer put on the table before deciding who to face.

"It's in our hands—which is a good place for us to be," Rahman co-manager Steve Nelson told AFP. "We want Rock to defend his title within three, maybe four months, then we can sit down and look at a re-match.

"The fact that we are not committed to any particular TV company is good news for us."

The real cash cow for Rahman would be a first defense against Tyson, who despite his recent sequence of joke bouts remains far and away the biggest draw in heavyweight boxing.

However with Tyson down to fight Nigerian David Izon in Washington in June, there may not be enough time for Rahman to set up a fight with the disgraced former undisputed heavyweight champion.

"I believe we are going to look to have one voluntary defense. After that, if Lennox wants it, that's fine with us...The contract stipulates a re-match within five months," said Rahman's manager Stan Hoffman. *AFP*

'Lewis still one of all-time greats'

JOHANNESBURG— Deposed world heavyweight champion Lennox Lewis will still go down as one of the all-time greats despite his shock loss to Hasim Rahman, legendary Emmanuel Steward said Sunday.

The coaching guru from Detroit's famous Kronk gym said Rahman's victory would not detract from Lewis' reputation as one of the finest heavyweights ever.

"I think when you talk about the greatest heavyweights ever, Lennox will be up there eventually," Steward said. "You've got to remember that even the great fighters lose sometimes.

"It's how they come back that's important," Steward added, reminding reporters of how Lewis improved after suffering the only other defeat of his career, a knockout by Oliver McCall in 1994.

Lewis has made no secret of his desire to enter heavyweight boxing's pantheon of greats, frustrated at the lack of recognition he has received during his time at the top.

However critics who doubt he deserves to be mentioned in the same breath as legends such as Muhammad Ali, Joe Frazier, Joe Louis and Larry Holmes were handed further ammunition on Sunday, when Lewis suffered a stunning fifth-round knockout defeat against 28-1 outsider Rahman.

Nevertheless Steward remains convinced of his boxer's worth. "Lennox came back after McCall a better boxer and he'll come back again and win the world title for a third time just like Muhammad Ali," Steward said.

Steward said he believed Lewis would knock Rahman out if the two fighters face each other in a re-match, insisting his fighter had done nothing wrong in Sunday's bout.

"As far as I'm concerned Lennox fought a great fight. He did everything asked of him. He just got caught with a tremendous shot and that's why boxing is such a great sport," said Steward. *AFP*

One-punch wonder?

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

TO err is human. To blame someone else is politics.

I can't remember anymore who said that. I think it was Hubert Humphrey.

At any rate, that line was uttered primarily to emphasize the irony, if not idiocy, of politics.

Every politician loses only because he was cheated.

A politician gets the votes, but he loses the fight in the counting.

As I said, sports is also politics. A most recent example is the fifth round knockout inflicted by Hasim Rahman on Lennox Lewis last Sunday.

I was shocked, the way I was shocked when Bobbit Sanchez lost what looked like a sure Senate seat for him a while back. Cheating did him in? Or was it conspiracy?

The 35-year-old, Britain-based Lewis was not supposed to lose as he was the 20-1 favorite to defeat Rahman, a nondescript 28-year-old challenger from Baltimore, Maryland. That would amount to seeing Bobby Tañada getting trounced by Manoling Morato in the coming May senatorial elections. Fiction.

The mismatch in the Lewis-Rahman fight became very obvious from Round 1 onwards: Lewis kept Rahman constantly at bay with jabs and occasional overhead rights that soon quickly caused welts to grow around the challenger's eyes. Before Rahman sneaked in that enormously powerful right hand to Lewis' jaw that knocked the champion out with 28 seconds remaining in the fifth, it was a Lewis show almost all the way.

But as in politics, Lewis' loss elicited a mini blaming rampage. As in politics, blaming is also a favorite fare in sports. In this case, Lewis' defeat was blamed on Lewis.

Two things stood out:

1) Lewis lost because he was overweight; he fought Rahman weighing his heaviest yet of 253 lbs. in all his 41 fights; and,

2) Lewis was not totally acclimatized to South Africa's altitude of 5,600 feet above sea level; he arrived barely two weeks ago while Rahman checked in four weeks before the fight.

Ironically, Lewis himself blamed no one for his defeat.

"I was definitely ready," Lewis said. "I had no altitude problem."

No altitude problem. No attitude problem, too. A real sportsman, this Lewis.

Said Lewis of Rahman: "He got through with a great right hand. I went down. I didn't beat the count. He won the fight."

Straight to the point. If Lewis were a journalist, he would make a good reporter.

Lewis fell to 38-2-1, win-loss-draw record. His only defeat before this came in 1994, when he also absorbed a knockout—also from a big right to the jaw by the now-retired Oliver McCall.

In stopping Lewis in this the champion's 15th world heavyweight title fight, Rahman improved to 36-2 and, blissfully, captured both the WBC and IBF titles. But more importantly, though, the big bucks are now finally there for the taking for the boxer who gave away 3 inches in height and 9 inches in reach. The much-publicized $100-million match between Lewis and Mike Tyson is now officially off.

The Sunday fight was dull. The knockout provided the thrill. Suddenly, obscurity becomes celebrity in Rahman.

"For anyone to win in boxing," said Emmanuel Steward, Lewis' trainer, "all he needs is one punch."

Boxing, suffering from popularity for quite sometime now, is back. News it would not be had Lewis won. And boxing would remain in the doldrums. Boxing, like the movies, needs new faces to keep it afloat. Old names will sell only if they are extremely talented. Exciting. Like when Bogart of Hollywood and Ali The Louisville Lip were still around. Lewis had been there too long and been doing nothing much to excite us. Now someone with a credential as suspect as Buster Mathis' comes along and steals thunder with a hammer for a fist. Here's hoping Rahman will not turn out to be a one-punch wonder, the route Mathis took after he stopped the then indestructible Tyson sometime ago.

While Tyson came back so easily to reclaim his crown, I doubt if Lewis can do the same.

God. Tyson is close to raiding the banks again.

But for now, let's savor the one punch—the Sunday punch, if you will—that got boxing lifted from the grave.

God. The resurrection came exactly a week after Easter Sunday.

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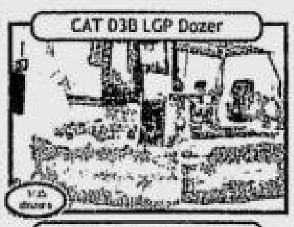
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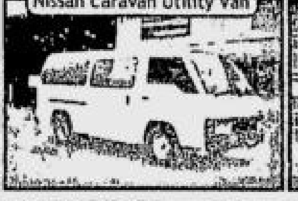
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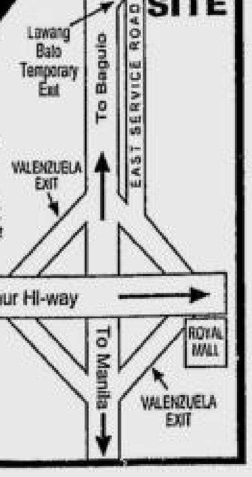

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DUCKPIN bowling's biggest event this year—the 26th Grand National and Youth Championships—will be held April 25 to May 6 at the Edsa Sports Center in Manuela III, Mandaluyong City.

According to PHIDBC president Inez G. Magbual, gift certificates and trophies worth P450,000 will be up for grabs in the team, singles (A/B and C) and Masters events for men and ladies and youth (for ages 10 to 16) with corresponding handicaps) and senior (55 and above for women and 60 and above for men) competitions.

Miss PHIDBC 2001 will be chosen from among the muses of the different participating teams during the opening ceremony set on April 28.

Special prizes will be given to record-breakers, most outstanding player and association, best uniformed association and biggest delegation.

The champions will receive P40,000 and P35,000 (men's and ladies' team, respectively), P15,000 each for singles (men's and ladies' A/B and C) and Masters (men and ladies), P4,000 each for boys' and girls youth (11-16) and P6,000 (senior).

Youth and senior bowlers will compete in the first four days of the tourney assisted by the Philippine Olympic Committee.

PHIDBC will hold its general assembly and election of officers on May 2.

Bullet from below

MELORD Zapata, 16, of Lubang Island, Occidental Mindoro, on Sunday night stood on the second floor terrace of his uncle's house in Tondo, where he was on vacation. On the ground floor, six men who were drinking broke into a brawl and grappled for possession of a homemade gun, which fell and fired. The bullet hit Zapata in the right buttock. The six escaped. *Jerome Aning, Carina Roncesvalles*

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Mute saw beheadings, say cops

BY PHILIP C. TUBEZA

A MUTE 16-year-old boy witnessed the beheading of three young men in Quezon City on April 16, police said yesterday.

Senior Supt. Rodolfo Tor, Central Police District director, told reporters that the witness, a parking attendant, was also abducted by suspects PO2 Mario Morales and PO3 Dennis Blasco and he saw how the two policemen and a civilian murdered the three victims.

The witness escaped from the clutches of the policemen, one of whom even fired at him but missed, Tor said.

While he denied the Inquirer report that three inmates who "escaped" from the Batasan Hills police station allegedly killed the victims, Tor still ordered an investigation to find out if the detainees were really involved in the murders.

Morales, Blasco and several John Does were charged Sunday night before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office for the murder of Kenny W. Azana, 16, and Rolando Popanes, 18, and for attempting to murder the mute boy.

A third count of murder will be filed against them once the third victim, aged 12-15, is identified.

MORALES

Tor said SPO1 Rodrigo Llabres, who was earlier linked to the killings, was not included in the charge sheet because the mute boy and five other witnesses under the protection of the National Bureau of Investigation could not say whether or not Llabres was involved.

Quezon City prosecutor Antonio R. Lim recommended no bail for Morales, the only suspect in police custody.

The mute boy told police that Blasco and Morales abducted him on April 15, a day before the murders, and brought him to a safehouse somewhere in Quezon City.

He said he saw the victims in the safehouse. He said they were being made to confess to some crime.

On April 16, the mute parking attendant allegedly saw the suspects strangle Azana and the two other victims with a rope before beheading them.

The boy escaped the moment he got the chance. On April 17, he heard about the murders on the news and he went directly to the NBI to give his statement.

Senior Insp. Rudy Jaraza, CPD-Criminal Investigation Unit chief, said Popanes and the remaining unidentified victim were involved in cell phone robberies in Tandang Sora.

The headless bodies of the three victims were found on Mindanao Avenue near Cresta Verde Subdivision in Barangay Sta. Monica, Novaliches, Quezon City.

Blasco, Morales and Llabres were all assigned to CPD Station 6 in Batasan Hills. Their superior, Supt. Jolly B. Dizon, has been sacked and remains in floating status for his failure to produce Blasco and Llabres during the police investigation over the weekend.

Blasco reportedly has sent word that he and his lawyer would only come out when he has been formally charged.

2 more Manila Bay accident victims found

THE BODIES of Jason Villafuerte, 10, and his brother Jonathan, 12, of Anakbayan, Paco, Manila, were recovered from the Manila Bay yesterday morning, a day after their boat sank.

The bodies, which had several cuts and bruises, were found floating in the bay near the US Embassy on Roxas Boulevard, police said.

Their motorized banca sank Sunday afternoon during a leisure trip in the bay area. The first casualty was the boys' sister Jhelyn, 2, whose body was found immediately after the boat sank.

Six others were injured including the Villafuerte children's mother, Elsa, 31; their brother Enrico, 14; aunts Gina Bantog, 35, and Annaliza Mendoza, 29, and cousin Ernesto Greg Mendoza, 3.

At least 10 other people, mostly children, were on board the boat.

OTHER kids look at Villafuerte's body after it was fished out of the bay. RANDY HORMILLOSA

Athos de Quiros of the Western Police District homicide section said the rented *banca* was overturned by huge waves and hit a boulder.

The survivors said a Canadian battleship, HMCS Algonquin which is on a three-day visit to the country, created the big waves that sank the banca. *Jerome Aning with Myla Torres*

Pinoy saves woman in Japan fire

BY TJ BURGONIO

THE JAPANESE fire department hailed Filipino entertainer Christopher Manalo, 33, of Cainta, Rizal, as a hero and awarded him a plaque of appreciation for saving the life of his businesswoman neighbor in a fire that razed her house in Komamoto, Masaki, Japan on April 16.

Manalo is the first foreigner to have received such an award in Japan. Labor attaché Angelo Jimenez and welfare officer Josephine Sanchez witnessed the awarding ceremonies held on April 19, which the Japanese media covered.

"I'm proud to be a Filipino," Manalo, who returned to Manila on Sunday night after his six-month contract as a singer expired, said in a phone interview.

He said the Japanese neighbor of the woman, identified only as Zugimoto, 53, did not lift a finger to help her, but only shouted instructions on how to rescue her.

He said he saw a frantic Zugimoto pleading for help from her second floor porch. He climbed up to the roof of her parking lot that led to the porch, but the roof fell. He climbed again and found her and guided her to safety.

He said Zugimoto never liked her Filipino neighbors and often complained about their loud singing at dawn. But she profusely thanked him after the rescue, he said.

Agarao suspect nabbed

POLICE early yesterday arrested in Laguna Bernardo T. Garbo, another suspected gunman in the 1996 murder of human rights lawyer Clarence Agarao.

Police said Garbo, also known as Berto Toque and who carries a P100,000 prize for his capture, was arrested at dawn yesterday in Barangay Balubad, Lumban, Laguna by members of the Special Task Group (STG) under the office of the chief of the Philippine National Police (PNP).

Garbo was arrested by virtue of a warrant of arrest issued by Judge Francisco Go of the Sta. Cruz, Laguna Municipal Trial Court.

Garbo is one of several suspects in the killing of Agarao, the husband of Carina Agarao who heads the anti-crime group Crusade Against Crime and Violence (CACV).

The arrest came about three months after the arrest of Joselito San Juan, the alleged mastermind in the Agarao killing. San Juan escaped from his detention cell also in Laguna.

Dave Veridiano and Mark David

Woman shot by phone snatchers

ONE of two snatchers shot Dulcinea C. Reyes, 21, of BF Homes in Quezon City, in the left foot when she resisted as they grabbed her Ericsson cell phone early yesterday morning, police said.

SPO4 Rafael De Peralta of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit (CPD-CIU) said Reyes and her companion Rem David had just alighted from their car in front of the Bank of PI branch at the corner of Isadora Hills and Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City when two men, armed with a knife and a handgun, grabbed her cell phone at about 2:45 a.m.

Reyes said one of the men shot her in the foot when she tried to get back her cell phone. The suspects escaped on board a motorcycle, she said.

Her companion brought Reyes to the St. Luke's Hospital. *Philip C. Tubeza, Sharon Jaylo*

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TUESDAY, APRIL 24 912-8983

Lina sincere in anti-gambling

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

FOR A woman, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has earned the fear of the notorious bandit group Abu Sayyaf.

The Abu Sayyaf had fooled around with her male predecessors, Fidel V. Ramos and Joseph Estrada. In fairness to them, the two leaders ordered campaigns against the bandit group in Sulu and Basilan.

But the campaigns were terminated after a while. Erap ordered government troops to go easy on the Abu Sayyaf after the bandit group released the foreign hostages it abducted in Malaysia.

***

But President Macapagal is different. She has ordered a relentless pursuit against the Abu Sayyaf even after the rescue of American hostage Jeffrey Schilling.

Ms Macapagal's order was for government troops to not take prisoners if the bandits engaged them in a firefight. Neither Ramos nor Erap made such an explicit order.

As a result, the Abu Sayyaf is constantly on the run. The bandits are being hunted like mad dogs, which they really are.

***

Whoever advised the President about the Tausugs who compose the Abu Sayyaf must know the Tausugs very well. In fact, the adviser could be a Tausug himself.

Ironically, Ms Arroyo, a woman, has become the Tausug's nemesis.

Let's hope she doesn't blink in the struggle against the Tausug bandit group.

***

The President's order to go against illegal gambling is being followed to the letter by Interior Secretary Joey Lina.

Lina's order to the Philippine National Police (PNP) is to eliminate *jueteng*, the illegal numbers game. He is serious about it.

I take back what I said about Lina's close relative being involved in *jueteng* in Laguna. It turned out some people who have been adversely affected by Lina's "no gambling" policy were spreading the disinformation to get back at him.

***

Some PNP officers, on the surface, follow Lina's orders but allow *jueteng* to operate on the sly in their areas.

Some of these police officers are in Region 3, which comprises Bataan, Zambales, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija and Bulacan.

Jueteng operates in many places in Region 3 with the blessings of top police officials.

***

Senatorial candidate Ernesto Herrera is asking what happened to the case against Sen. Robert Jaworski's son who was caught trying to buy methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu) from a pusher?

Yes, what happened to the case? Police said they tried to arrest the senator's son but he got away.

The question now is, has a criminal case been filed against the senator's son and his wife who was with him when he was busted by the police?

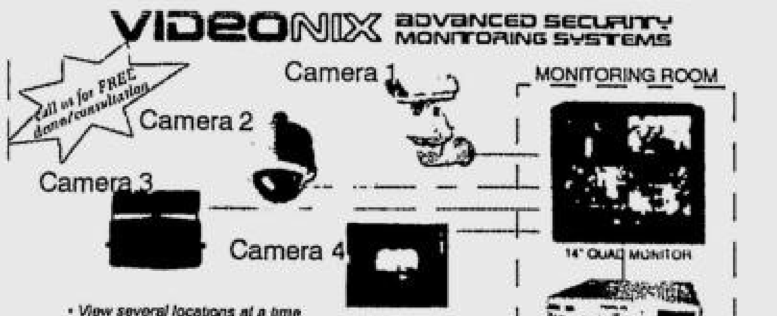
Ryan Joseph Jaworski and his wife Bernadette should be charged in court just like ordinary citizens who commit crimes.

Man found dead after fighting with wife

JOSEPH Nahil, 32, was found dead in the toilet of his house in Gulod, Novaliches, Quezon City on Sunday, with slash and stab wounds in the left wrist, abdomen, feet and head, said investigator SPO3 Resty De Leon, of the Central Police District-Criminal Investigation Unit (CPD-CIU). A shard of glass from a soft drink bottle and a hammer were found near the body.

Nahil's wife told police her husband went amuck about 2 p.m. on Sunday and ran after her with a hammer but she was able to flee.

She said that when she returned home, she found the door locked. Relatives helped her break into the house and they found Nahil sitting on the toilet bowl and bleeding from his wounds. *P. Tubeza, S. Jaylo*



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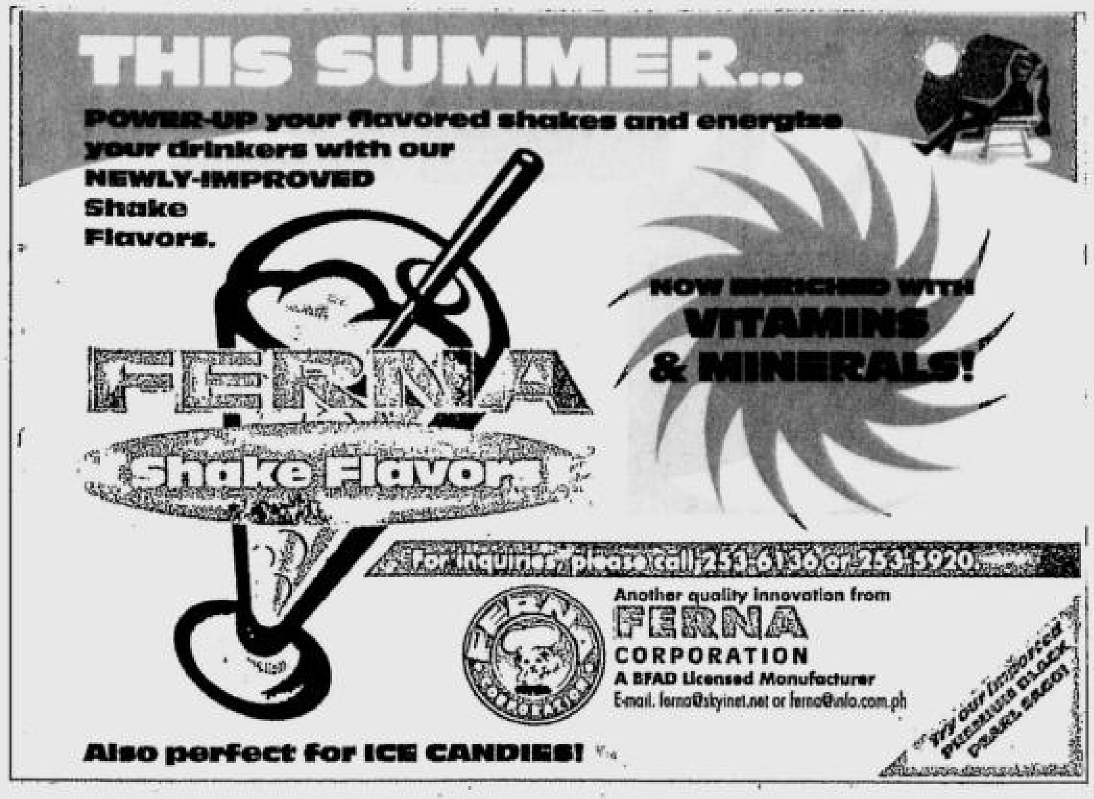

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SM CITY BACOOR		4173868
1	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
2	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CROW
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
4	DOLBY SURROUND	MADERASO
5	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	EXIT WOUNDS
6	DOLBY SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
7	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSE FOR RENOVATION
8	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSE FOR RENOVATION

SM CENTERPOINT		7149522 • 7161416
1	DOLBY SURROUND	ABAKADA ... INA
2	DOLBY SURROUND	THE SEDUCER
3	DTS	EXIT WOUNDS
4	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CROW
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
6	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ANTI-RTRUST
7	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
8	DOLBY SURROUND	AIR BUD 3
9	DOLBY SURROUND	DOUBLE TAKE
10	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	RUGRATS IN PARIS

SM CITY FAIRVIEW		9350749
1	DOLBY SURROUND	RUGRATS IN PARIS
2	DOLBY SURROUND	THEY NEST
3	DOLBY SURROUND	ATTACK FORCE
4	DOLBY DIGITAL	SWEET NOVEMBER
5	DOLBY SURROUND	ABAKADA ... INA
6	DOLBY SURROUND	MADERASO
7	DOLBY DIGITAL	EXIT WOUNDS
8	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CROW
9	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
10	DOLBY SURROUND	DOULBLE TAKE
11	DOLBY SURROUND	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
12	DOLBY SURROUND	THE SEDUCER

SM CITY MANILA		5239240
1	DOLBY DIGITAL	ANTI-TRUST
2	DOLBY DIGITAL	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
3	DOLBY SURROUND	ATTACK FORCE
4	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
5	DOLBY DIGITAL	RUGRATS IN PARIS
6	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	EXIT WOUNDS
7	DOLBY SURROUND	DOUBLE TAKE
8	DOLBY SURROUND	THE SEDUCER
9	DOLBY SURROUND	ABAKADA ... INA
10	DOLBY SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
11	DOLBY SURROUND	AIR BUD 3
12	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CROW

GUADALUPE COMM'L CTR		8820950
1	ULTRA SURROUND	HAPDI NG TAG-INIT
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

SM MEGAMALL		6331901 • 6329401
1	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
3	DOLBY DIGITAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
4	DTS	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
5	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
6	DOLBY SURROUND	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
7	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	DOUBLE TAKE
8	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
9	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
10	DOLBY SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ABAKADA...INA
12	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND

SM CITY NORTH EDSA		9295452
1	DOLBY SURROUND	THE CROW
2	DOLBY SURROUND	DOUBLE TAKE
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ABAKADA .INA
4	DOLBY SURROUND	RUGRATS IN PARIS
5	DOLBY SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
6	DOLBY SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
7	DTS	EXIT WOUNDS
8	DOLBY DIGITAL	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
9	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ATTACK FORCE
10	DOLBY SURROUND	THE SEDUCER
11	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
12	DOLBY SURROUND	AIR BUD 3

SM SOUTHMALL		8066888 • 8066782
1	ULTRA SURROUND	RUGRATS IN PARIS
2	ULTRA SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
3	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	EXIT WOUNDS
4	ULTRA SURROUND	ABAKADA ..INA
5	ULTRA SURROUND	ANTI-TRUST
6	ULTRA SURROUND	AIR BUD 3
7	ULTRA SURROUND	THE CROW
8	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
9	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSE FOR RENOVATION
10	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSE FOR RENOVATION

TUTUBAN CENTER		2514302
1	ULTRA SURROUND	EXIT WOUNDS
2	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
3	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	SWEET NOVEMBER
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	ABAKADA ... INA

SM CEBU		2313876
1	DOLBY SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
2	ULTRA SURROUND	GLADIATOR
3	ULTRA SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
4	ULTRA SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY
5	ULTRA SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT
6	ULTRA SURROUND	RUGRATS IN PARIS
7	DOLBY SURROUND	BAIT

SM ILOILO		3209422
1	ULTRA SURROUND	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
3	ULTRA SURROUND	BAIT
4	ULTRA SURROUND	WEDDING PLANNER
5	ULTRA SURROUND	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
6	ULTRA SURROUND	RUGRATS IN PARIS
7	ULTRA SURROUND	CLOSED
8	ULTRA SURROUND	MS. CONGENIALITY

SM PAMPANGA		7128015
1	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	RUGRATS IN PARIS
2	DOLBY DIGITAL EX	CHOCOLAT
3	DOLBY SURROUND	THEY NEST
4	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	AIR BUD-3
5	SYNTHESIZED SURROUND	UHAW SA INIT
6	DOLBY SURROUND	ABAKADA ... INA

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2 SWEET NOVEMBER
3 THE CROW: SALVATION
4 ABAKADA... INA

GLORIETTA 4 All Digital Sound
1 3000 MILES TO GRACELAND in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2 FINDING FORRESTER (Phil. Premiere) in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 EXIT WOUNDS THX (Adv. Screening) in DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 DOUBLE TAKE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 RUGRATS IN PARIS in DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6 SWEET NOVEMBER in DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7 ANTI - TRUST in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
Art Film

GREENBELT
1 3000 MILES TO GRACELAND in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
2 SWEET NOVEMBER in SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3 EXIT WOUNDS (Adv. Screening) in DOLBY STEREO DIGITAL SOUND
4 Onstage

ALABANG TOWN CENTER
1 EXIT WOUNDS THX (Adv. Screening) in DSD/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
2 3000 MILES TO GRACELAND in DSD DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3 SWEET NOVEMBER in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4 RUGRATS IN PARIS in DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5 DOUBLE TAKE in DTS DIGITAL SOUND

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MOVIE GUIDE
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1 (DDS)	EXIT WOUNDS
2 (SDDS)	ANTI-TRUST
3 (DTS)	RUGRATS
4 (GOLD DTS)	SWEET NOVEMBER
5 (GOLD DOLBY)	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
6 (GOLD SDDS)	AIR BUD 3
7 (GOLD DOLBY)	THE CROW
8	ATTACK FORCE
9	MADERASO
10	ABAKADA INA

Pearl Plaza Cinemas
(Parañaque) tel. 853.4486

1	EVANGELINE 14
2	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON
3 (DTS)	
4	
5	
6 (DTS)	
Golden Pearl THX	

Masagana CINEMAX 1-2 & 3
(Kalaw) tel 536.4315

1 (DOLBY)	SWEET NOVEMBER
2 (DTS)	RUGRATS
3	ABAKADA INA

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 831.6603

1	ABAKADA .. INA
2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3	MADERAZO

starmall Movies
(Shaw Blvd.) tel 724.4986

1	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
2	ATTACK FORCE
3	3000 MILES
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SWEET NOVEMBER
5	MADERAZO

Metropolis
(Alabang) tel 543.4001

1	MADERAZO
2	SEDUCER
3	ABAKADA .. INA
4	CLOSED
5	SWEET NOVEMBER
6	GLADIATOR
7	3000 MILES
8	THE CROW

Uniwide Metromall
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1	WATCH 3 MOVIES FOR P30 00
2	THE EXORCIST
3	PORNOGRAPHER
4	NIGHT GATE
5	–
6	

Uniwide Coastal Mall
(Parañaque) tel 879.0001 loc. 2152

1	WATCH 3 MOVIES FOR P30 00
2	FRIENDS AND LOVER
3	AUTUMN IN NEW YORK
4	THE EXORCIST

Center Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
2	MS CONGENIALITY

FCM FAIRVIEW CENTER MALL, INC.
tel 930.9515

1	CLOSED
2	EVANGELINE 14
3	FAMILY MAN

Spring
(Libertad, Pasay City) tel 831.7864

1	EVANGELINE 14
A	AMERICAN WERWOLF

JC Cinema
(Parañaque) tel 825.8626

1	CLOSED
3	CLOSED

GOTESCO CINEMA

City
(Manila) tel 734.8568

1 (DOLBY)	SWEET NOVEMBER
2	SEDUCER
3	ATTACK FORCE
4	MADERAZO
5	3000 MILES
6	ABAKADA INA
7 (DTS)	ANTI-TRUST
8 (SDDS)	DOUBLE TAKE
9 (DOLBY)	THE CROW

Caloocan
tel 362.3508

2	ABAKADA INA
3	RESERVE
	RESERVE
5	
6	

Grand Central
(Caloocan) tel 364.3781

1	MADERAZO
2	ABAKADA .. INA
3	ATTACK FORCE
4 (SDDS)	3000 MILES
5	SEDUCER
6 (DOLBY)	THE CROW
7 (DTS)	SWEET NOVEMBER
8	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
9	OOOPS, TEKA LANG

Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS)	SWEET NOVEMBER
2	DOUBLE TAKE
3	ABAKADA INA
4	ANTI-TRUS
5 (SDDS)	3000 MILES
6	ATTACK FORCE
7 (DOLBY)	THE CROW
8	MADERAZO

Ortigas
tel 656.6795

1	ABAKADA INA
2	MADERAZO
3 (DTS)	SWEET NOVEMBER
4	3000 MILES
5 (SDDS)	SEDUCER
6 (DOLBY)	RESERVE
7 (DOLBY)	RESERVE

Universal
(Manila) tel 733.2470

1	ABAKADA INA

Sampaguita
(Cubao) tel 911.7888

1	ABAKADA INA

Dilson
(Manila) tel 734.7724

Dilson	BODY TO BODY
Lords	MADERAZO
Jennet	ONE NIGHT STAND

MARKETPLACE Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1	MADERAZO
2	ABAKADA .. INA
3	SWEET NOVEMBER
4	ATTACK FORCE

Prima
(Pasig) tel 641.1215

1	
3	MADERAZO

Super Cinerama
(Manila) tel 733.4226 or 733.4238

1	SWEET NOVEMBER
2	MADERAZO
3	ATTACK FORCE
4	ABAKADA INA
5	3000 MILES

Divisoria Mall
(Manila) tel 244.4560 or 244.4619

1	MADERAZO
2	ABAKADA...INA
3	EVANGELINE 14
4	PRODIGAL FIGHTER
5	ATTACK FORCE
6	3000 MILES

Baclaran LRT Cinema
tel 512.0115 or 512.0116

1	ABAKADA...INA
2	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
3	MADERAZO

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2	THE GIFT
3 (DTS)	ABAKADA INA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2 (DTS)	RUGRATS
3 (DOLBY)	THEY NEST
4	ABAKADA INA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	SWEET NOVEMBER
2	MADERAZO
3	3000 MILES
4 (DTS)	ABAKADA INA

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	THEY NEST
2	ABAKADA INA
3 (DTS)	RUGRATS
4	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
5	ROARING LION REGENT DRAGON

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	ABAKADA .. INA
2	RUGRATS
3	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 536.5101

1	ABAKADA INA
2	RUGRATS
3	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	GLADIATOR
2	BABA[illegible]TIK
3	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	THE GIFT
2	ABAKADA INA
3	RUGRATS

Sunshine
(FTI, Taguig) tel 838.4301 loc. 3376

1	ABAKADA .. INA
2	MADERAZO
3	DRACULA
4	EVANGELINE 14

Cabuyao
CINEMAS TEL. (049) 5314808

1 (DTS)	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2 (DTS)	

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	ABAKADA INA

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT
2	ABAKADA ... INA
3	UUBUSIN KO ANG BALA

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	THEY NEST
2	THE GIFT
3	QUILLS
4	DI MAPIGIL ANG INIT

Berma
tel 879.2168

1	ABAKADA ... INA
2	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	RESERVE
2	MADERAZO
3	ABAKADA ..INA
4	PROOF OF LIFE

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	AIR BUD-3
2	ABAKADA ... INA
3	THEY NEST
4 (DTS EX)	QUILLS

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❷ 3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
❸ DOUBLE TAKE
❹ RUGRATS IN PARIS
❺ ABAKADA...INA
❻ THE CROW
❼ ANTI TRUST

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❶ THE CROW
❷ RUGRATS IN PARIS
❸ ABAKADA...INA
❹ SWEET NOVEMBER
❺ MADERASO
❻ EVANGELINE 14

BACOLOD
(034)441-0453

❶ SAVE THE LAST DANCE
❷ BAIT
❸ RUGRATS IN PARIS
❹ MS. CONGENIALITY
❺ DEMON GATE
❻ BABAENG PUTIK

DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

"I WANT people to buy my album because they feel the music, feel my sincerity and they feel me as a person," says upcoming pop star Joy Enriquez.

This sincerity is served in healthy proportions on her self-titled debut album that features eleven songs crafted by pop music's best producers Babyface, Rodney Jerkins, Fred Jerkins, Soulshock and Karlin and Ian Prince.

The album's first single, "Tell Me How You Feel," which she cowrote, is a bouncy dancefloor song that gives Joy the opportunity to show her skills as a writer and prove her vocal prowess.

Joy Enriquez established a name for herself as a promising singer in her hometown of Whittier, California. The talented Latina singer graced national TV in 1995 when she appeared on the famed "Star Search" series, winning in the female vocalist category for 11 straight weeks.

Lucrative recording deals came shortly after that but Joy wasn't quick to take any offers, as she had her mind set for working with Babyface. It didn't take too long.

In 1999, she signed with Babyface's LaFace Records and right away broke into the international scene via the hit ballad "How Can I Not Love You," which she recorded for the motion picture soundtrack of "Anna and the King," which starred Jodie Foster and Chow Yun-Fat.

The song comes as a bonus in Joy's album. She was also part of the historic teaming of Whitney Houston and Mariah Carey in the song "When You Believe" from "The Prince of Egypt" soundtrack, by singing background vocals.

"It was an honor to be singing for two people who I really admired," Joy says. "They're two divas I have looked up to and to know that my name is on the same record with them was the icing on the cake."

With Joy's debut, her down-to-earth demeanor comes across in every song. Anybody can feel it in the impressive combination of her romantic ballads and in the sassy, energetic, bouncy pop numbers.

ENRIQUEZ. Upcoming pop star releases debut album.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	ABAKADA... INA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	SGT MADERAZO
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	EXIT WOUNDS (Adv Screening)
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	THE CROW
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	RUGRATS IN PARIS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	DOUBLE TAKE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	EXIT WOUNDS (Adv. Screening)
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
MIRAMAR	VIRGIN WIFE/TOO MUCH FLESH
ODEON	EXIT WOUNDS
ODEON-2	3,000 MILES TO GRACELAND
ROBEN	ABAKADA...INA
TANDEM-1	ALIW MASARAP ANG LASON
TANDEM-2	EVANGELINE 14
TIMES	PROOF OF LIFE/DEMON GATE
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	BAYAD NA PATI KALULUWA MO
QUEZON-1	EXIT WOUNDS
REMAR	EXIT WOUNDS
REMAR-2	3 000 MILES TO GRACELAND
CUBAO	
OCEAN SUPERAMA	BABAENG PUTIK
OCEAN CINEMA-A	PANABLA
OCEAN CINEMA-B	CRISELDA
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	RUGRATS
CINEMA-2	SWEET NOVEMBER
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-54091 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	ABAKADA... INA
CINEMA-2	MADERASO
CINEMA-3	SEDUCER
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	THE CROW
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	SAVE THE LAST DANCE
CINEMA-6	SA HULING PAGHIHINTAY
CINEMA-7	GLADIATOR
CINEMA-8	DRACULA 2000
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	SWEET NOVEMBER
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	RUGRATS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	DOUBLE TAKE
CINEMA-12	AIR BUD 3
CINEMA-14	ANTI-TRUST
CINEMA-15	ABAKADA INA
LORES	
CINEMA-2	DI MATIGIL ANG INIT / HIYAS
CINEMA-3	MS CONGENIALITY
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	ANTI-TRUST
CINEMA-2	EXIT WOUNDS
CINEMA-3	RUGRATS IN PARIS
CINEMA-4	DOUBLE TAKE
CINEMA-5	3000 MILES TO GRACELAND
CINEMA-6	SWEET NOVEMBER

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10:30 PM - Exit Wounds

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Even without Banderas, Malaga was marvelous

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

"THE rain in Spain stays mainly on the plain."

Eliza Doolittle in "My Fair Lady" couldn't be more wrong. During the 10 days that I toured Spain, the weather was wonderful. No showers, only sun and a chilly spring air.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday took me to the coastal city of Malaga, the birthplace of actor **Antonio Banderas** and **Pablo Picasso.**

Residents of the city, which is along the stretch of Costa del Sol, talk fondly of Banderas, who makes it a point to visit his hometown at least once a year, either during Holy Week or the summer months of June to September.

Semana Santa is celebrated with intensity in Malaga, with long and distinctive processions. It is said that at certain times, Banderas even joins the brotherhood that traditionally carries the thrones being paraded on the city streets.

I wasn't lucky, though, to get a glimpse of Banderas this time, although I watched the magnificent thrones on the streets.

But in summer last year, Banderas and his wife, Hollywood actress **Melanie Griffith**, came for the fiesta celebration in Malaga. Their two little daughters were even dressed in flamenco costumes during their visit.

Melanie is said to have been initially unpopular among Malaga residents, who sympathized with his Spanish wife after their divorce. But according to **Diana Serop**, head of the Costa del Sol Tourism Board that toured a group of 19 journalists from around the world, the American actress won the hearts of the Spaniards in no time.

"She doesn't understand a word of Spanish but she easily endeared herself to the people of Malaga," Diana said of Melanie. "She's always close to him (Banderas) whenever she's here, but she's always smiling. Today, the people of Malaga love her."

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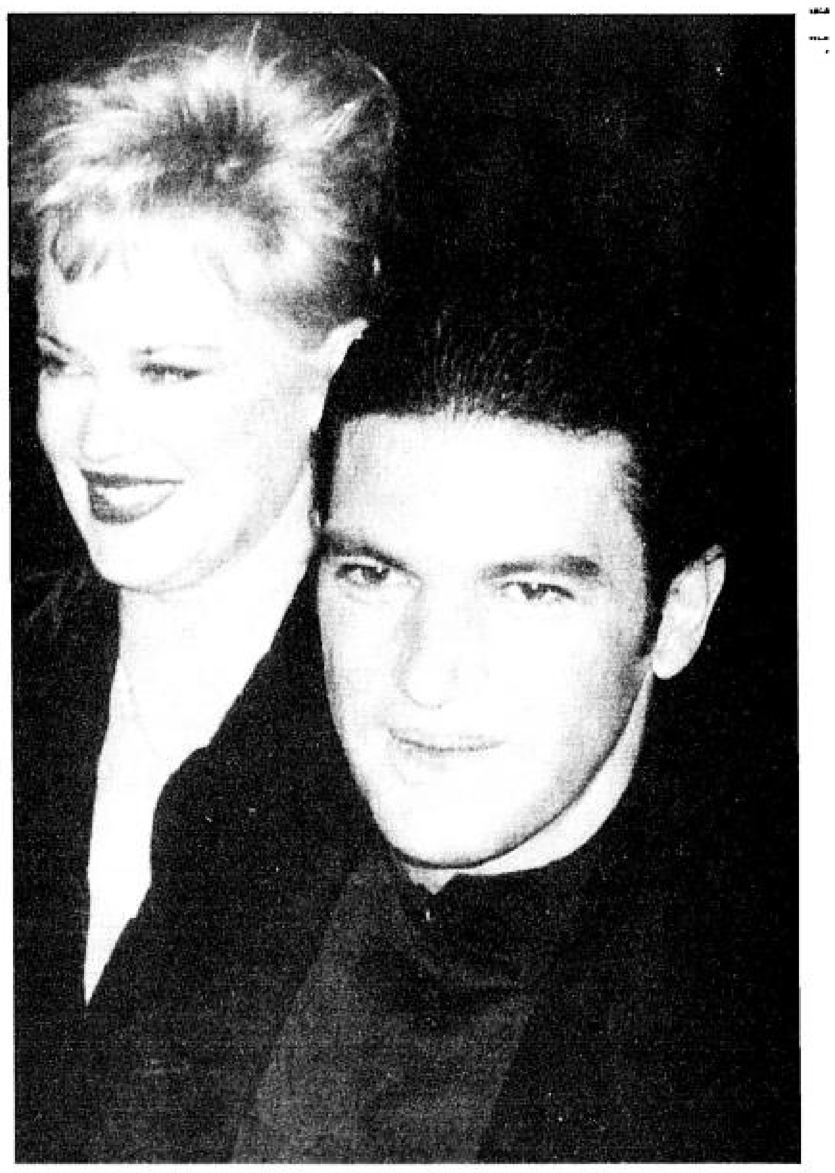

MALAGA native Antonio Banderas with actress-wife Melanie Griffith.

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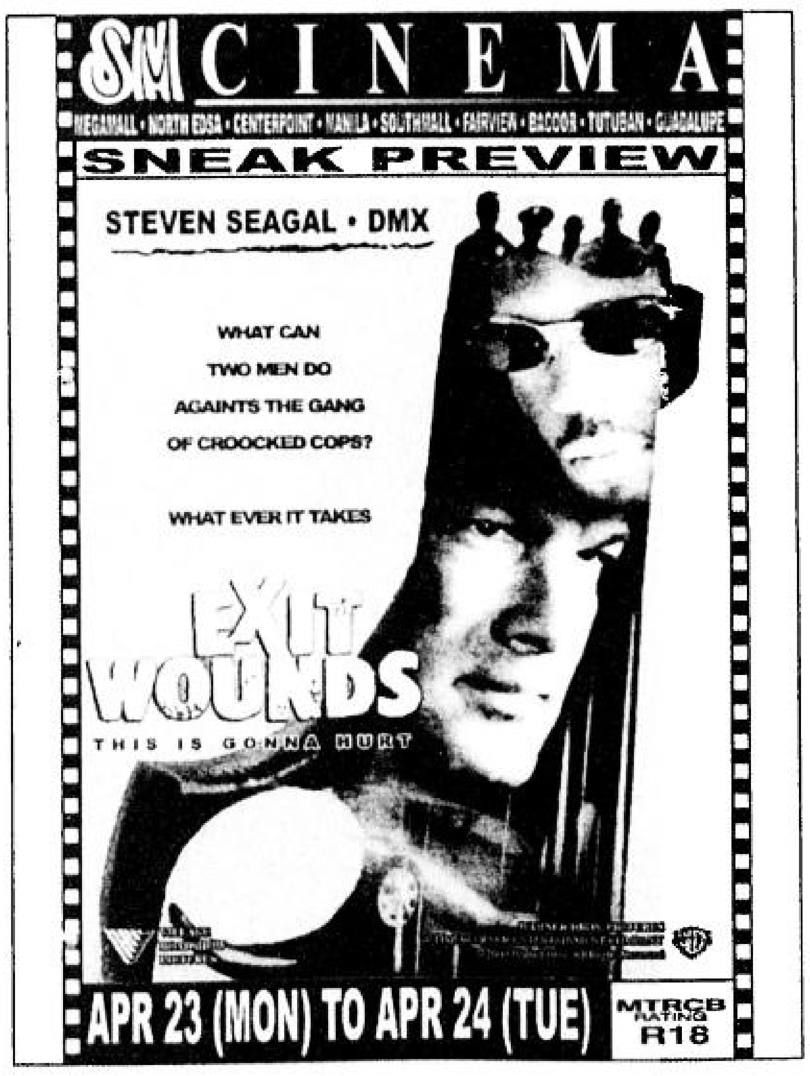

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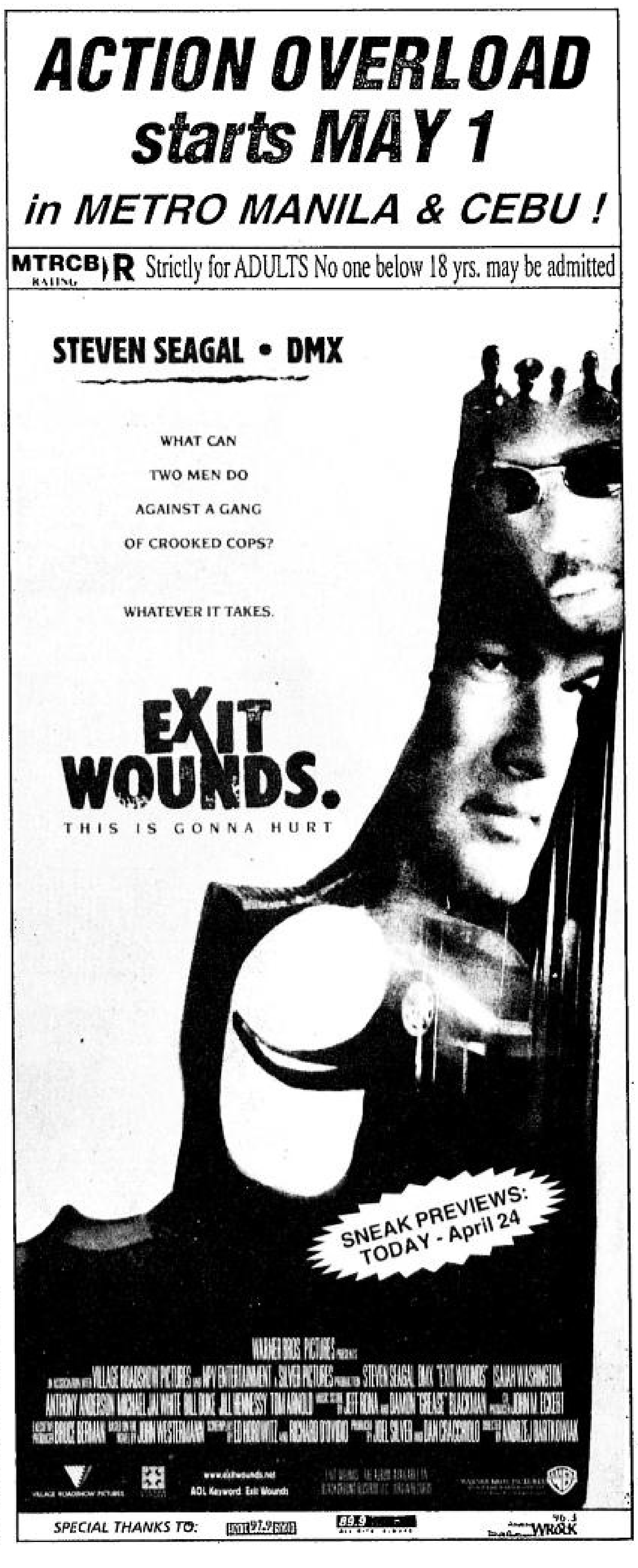

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Even without Banderas, Malaga was marvelous

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

"THE rain in Spain stays mainly on the plain."

Eliza Doolittle in "My Fair Lady" couldn't be more wrong. During the 10 days that I toured Spain, the weather was wonderful. No showers, only sun and a chilly spring air.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday took me to the coastal city of Malaga, the birthplace of actor **Antonio Banderas** and **Pablo Picasso**.

Residents of the city, which is along the stretch of Costa del Sol, talk fondly of Banderas, who makes it a point to visit his hometown at least once a year, either during Holy Week or the summer months of June to September.

Semana Santa is celebrated with intensity in Malaga, with long and distinctive processions. It is said that at certain times, Banderas even joins the brotherhood that traditionally carries the thrones being paraded on the city streets.

I wasn't lucky, though, to get a glimpse of Banderas this time, although I watched the magnificent thrones on the streets.

But in summer last year, Banderas and his wife, Hollywood actress **Melanie Griffith**, came for the fiesta celebration in Malaga. Their two little daughters were even dressed in flamenco costumes during their visit.

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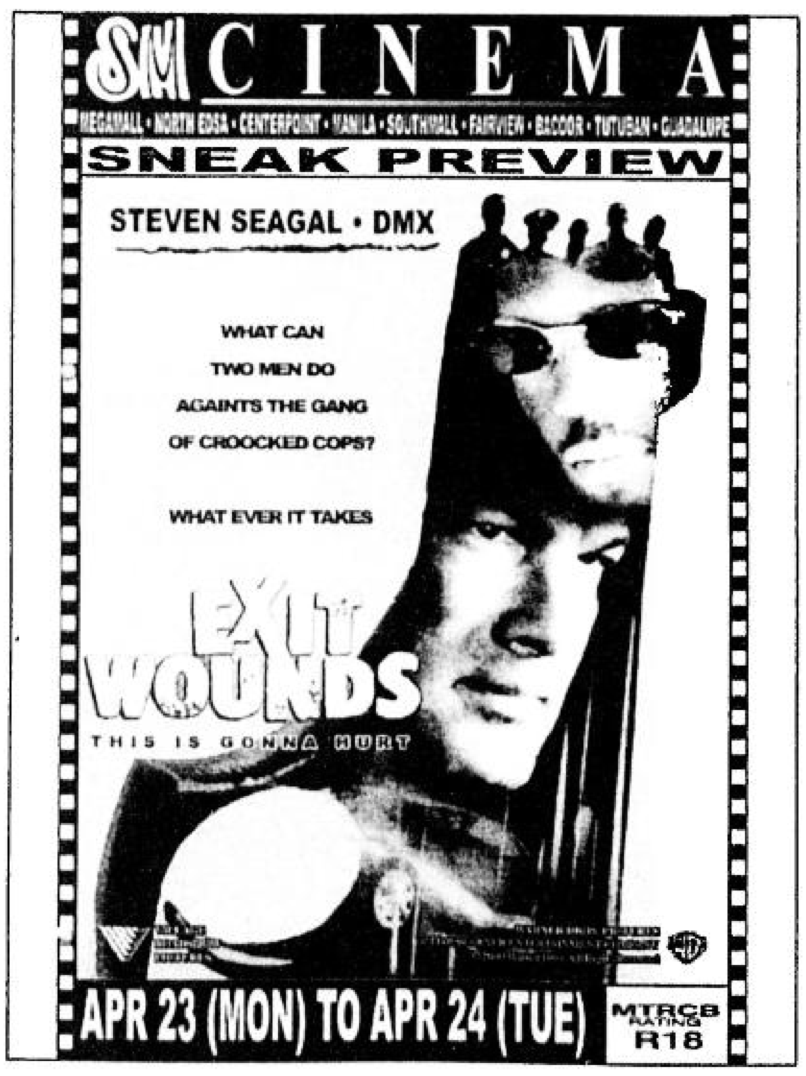

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

'FINDING FORRESTER'

'Chicken Soup' for the moviegoer's soul

By RUBEN CRUZ JR.

REVIEW

MUCH like warriors who return to the scene of their greatest victories, filmmakers also feel a natural longing to recreate their most successful film.

That certainly looks like the case with director Gus Van Sant whose latest film, "Finding Forrester," captures the essence and recycles most of the story elements of his first mainstream venture, the Oscar-decorated "Good Will Hunting."

To get the question out of the way, "Hunting" is hands down better. Still, "Forrester" provides a decent if not enjoyable way to spend two hours in the theater.

It's difficult to begrudge Van Sant for delving yet again into the sentimental realm. Yes, "Forrester" is very much been-there, done-that and has none of the edge Van Sant was previously known for during his indie filmmaking days (he made indie fave "Drugstore Cowboy").

If Van Sant has turned into a Hollywood conformist by fully succumbing to mainstream movie-making, then at least one could say that two of the three conventional movies he's made so far (the other one was the "Psycho" remake) have a theme that seeks to inspire and enrich people.

Indeed, "Hunting" and "Forrester" seem worthy onscreen complements of "Chicken Soup for the Soul." Whether that is good or bad depends on who you are.

There are pitfalls, major ones, in this mawkish kind of filmmaking. I, for one, don't mind glossing over them. Think along the lines of "Dead Poets Society," "Awakenings," "Mr. Holland's Opus" and other feel-good fodder. Tell me, do you really mind?

Charismatic protagonist

A big part of "Forrester's" allure lies in the charisma of its main protagonist, 16-year-old smart jock Jamal Wallace, played so naturally by newcomer Rob Brown that you can't help but be impressed. In 1997, Will Hunting (Matt Damon) excited a common fantasy—to be an underachieving genius, not a nerdy one but a cool whiz kid who can rough it up with the toughies in South Boston while also able to verbally dress down and intellectually deflate a Harvard post-grad's inflated ego. (One never seems to get tired of that scene because who doesn't like telling off pompous pedants?)

The screenplay by Mike Rich this time gives us Hunting's counterpart in Jamal, a high school basketball player from the Bronx whose skills on the hard court are matched if not surpassed by his writing prowess.

Wallace coasts along academically and camouflages his passion for writing while fully indulging in his other passion, basketball, in order to blend in with his 'hood. He maintains a C-average in his inner-city public school and prefers to shut up in class even though he knows all the answers to his teacher's questions (and much more).

In school, he lets his game do the talking. Alone, he reads the classics and writes voraciously in his journals.

The drama unfurls when his intellectual gifts are discovered in a standardized test, and when, because of a dare, he gets to meet the kooky old man in the neighborhood who never gets out but always watches their pick-up games from his apartment tower (they call him "The Window").

Thorny transition

Because of his stunning scores in the test and his fluid moves on the basketball court, Jamal is offered a scholarship by an exclusive and snooty private school in Manhattan—which thrusts him into the thorny transition from being one of the homeboys to being the outsider among the rich and pampered class.

At the same time, he learns that the neighborhood recluse is actually legendary author William Forrester, whose first and only novel, "Avalon Landing," was considered "the great 20th century novel." The Pulitzer Prize-winning Forrester has spent the past four decades in self-imposed exile; content to write for his own pleasure, safe from the scrutiny of critics.

An unlikely friendship develops between the gruff author and the prodigy. Forrester takes Jamal under his wing and "helps him find his voice in his writing." In turn, very much like Damon and Robin Williams' bonding in "Hunting," the student-mentor relationship also helps heal the scars of Forrester's past.

"Forrester" follows the path of "Hunting" in exploring the therapeutic nature of connecting with each other, and in the process, enriching each other's lives. In both films, as in real life, the mentors learn as much from their students, as their students do from them. Anybody who has ever taught a class (I did once) knows this to be true.

Predictable, familiar

Some familiar melodramatic twists are inserted into the plot, staying true to the traditional path of films of this type.

An irredeemably villainous professor (F. Murray Abraham) in the private school finds Jamal's writing too good for a black kid from the ghetto, much more a basketball player. He launches a crusade to get Jamal kicked out of school, an essential ploy in the script that of course leads to the predictable and very familiar climax of the mentor coming to his student's defense and shaming the doubters.

This scene wasn't lifted from "Hunting" but from "Scent of a Woman" and to be honest, the rousing speech of Col. Slade (Al Pacino) in the prep school tribunal was a lot better than Forrester's turn. If Rich wanted the speech and applause scene to be more authentic and inspiring, he should have allowed the regal Scotsman to flex his powerful theatrical muscles by actually giving him something to say.

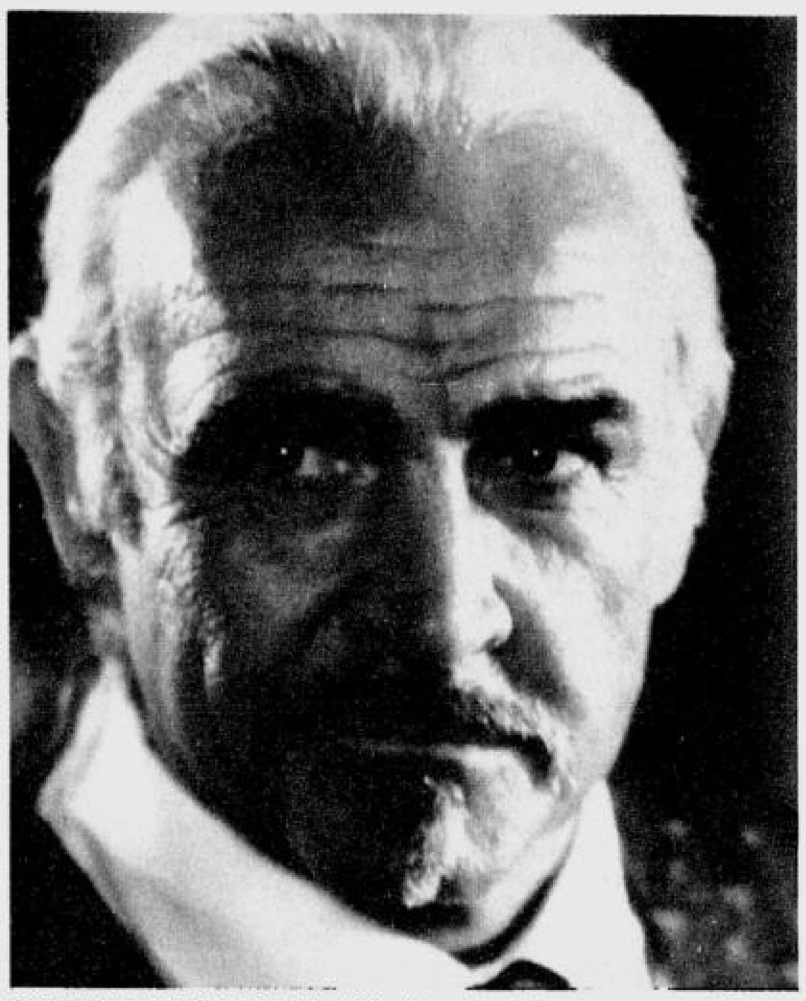
Looking at the enthralled faces of students with just the song "Over the Rainbow" playing and none of Forrester's actual verbiage is such a cop-out.

There are other unexplored aspects of the story. For instance, the audience is provided little to justify Forrester's decision to shut himself out from the world. The nascent romance between Jamal and his white female friend in the prep school (Anna Paquin) leaves so much to be desired.

For a first-time screenwriter though, Rich's work is not at all disappointing. Perhaps in time, his screenplays would have fresher material, and the nuances and subtleties that distinguish truly good films from the average.

A lot to like

But as it is, there are lots to like about the "Forrester" script. The friendship between Jamal and William, the backbone of the story, is developed authentically enough. And like "Hunting," the film is filled with witty repartee between the characters.



CREDIBLE CONNERY. It's difficult to imagine anyone else playing the novelist of the title.

The film also has some very convincing even eloquent grace notes: the montage of everyday sights in the Bronx in the opening of the film, the genuineness of Jamal's friendship with his homeboys or "dogs," and his family's love all too evident in simple scenes like when they sit down to have dinner together and ask about each other.

Busta Rhymes, who plays Jamal's elder brother, really lights up the few scenes he is in.

As for the film's main actors, one can't ask for anything more from Connery's performance. It's difficult to imagine anyone more fitting to play the J.D. Salinger-like character of William Forrester. Connery is immediately credible as an author. His reputation definitely works for the film.

"Forrester" may be a rehash, but sometimes a rehash isn't all that bad.

Sometimes following a familiar path can be a good thing. If you liked "Good Will Hunting," you definitely know what I mean.

Tickets to Broadway's 'first smash of new century' sells at $100 each

NEW YORK — It's springtime for Mel Brooks.

"The Producers," a $10-million stage version of Brooks' classic film comedy, is Broadway's biggest hit since "The Lion King," with the highest ticket price on Broadway — $100 — and rhapsodic reviews Friday from critics.

"The real thing," proclaimed The New York Times. "A big Broadway book musical that is so ecstatically drunk on its powers to entertain that it leaves you delirious."

"The first Broadway smash of the new century," burbled Variety, the show biz weekly.

The musical is basically sold out into November. It opened Thursday at the St. James Theatre with an advance of $17 million.

"The Producers" stars Nathan Lane and Matthew Broderick in the roles played in the 1968 movie by Zero Mostel and Gene Wilder. They portray the immortal scamsters, Max Bialystock and Leopold Bloom, who raise more money than is needed to put on a flop musical.

They plan to run off with the excess when the show, "Springtime for Hitler," closes.

Of course, it is a hit.

Tickets through April 2002 went on sale Friday, not only at the St. James, but across 44th Street at the Majestic and Broadhurst theaters, where "The Phantom of the Opera" and "Fosse" are playing. It is an unusual move because the St. James is owned by Jujamcyn Theaters and the other two by the rival Shubert Organization.

The extra box-office windows were needed to handle the crowds, said John Barlow, a spokesman for "The Producers." Those potential theatergoers were greeted with more than long lines.

The top ticket price was raised overnight, from $91 to $100, a $99 top price plus $1 for theater restoration. Other shows have charged that amount in the past: the two-part, eight-hour version of "Nicholas Nickleby" and the limited-run Kevin Spacey "Iceman Cometh," for example.

Yet "The Producers" is the first open-ended engagement to charge that much for a majority of its seats. At the 1,623-seat St. James, the new ticket pricing could mean a weekly gross of $1.1 million, the highest on Broadway.

By 5 p.m. Friday, $2.5 million worth of tickets had been sold, with the figure expected to top $3 million by midnight.

The day after it opened in 1998, "The Lion King" sold $2.7 million worth of tickets at a top price of $75.

The show's real producers, a high-powered consortium that includes Jujamcyn president Rocco Landesman, Miramax Films honchos Bob and Harvey Weinstein and Brooks imself, did not return phone calls to comment about the ticket price hike and the show.

"It's a fantastic production," enthused Kathleen Turner at intermission. "I'm sure it's going to be a hit," Glenn Close and Michael J. Fox agreed, while Demi Moore said, "I'm just happy to be here."

"I've been waiting 32 years to see this and it is living up to every expectation I could possibly have," said Martin Lewis, a comedian and performer who lives in Los Angeles.

Will Broadway's other hot-ticket musical follow the lead of "The Producers"? "The Lion King," a consistent sellout since it opened in New York, is holding at $90 for its best seats. Besides, the Disney extravaganza is pretty much sold out into June 2002. *AP*

Sicko Tom Green comedy not funny! It's boring, annoying! Don't see it!

LOS ANGELES — "Freddy Got Fingered" is not a comedy. It's an act of violence against moviegoers.

Written and directed by Tom Green, it's a cruel prank on people who will pay for tickets hoping to be entertained, only to be deliberately bored, annoyed and insulted.

Midway through this painfully unfunny exercise, you'll want to fall to your knees and beg the screen to go blank.

"Freddy Got Fingered" is basically an endurance contest staged by Green, who had his own show on MTV, but is known to most people for losing a testicle last year to cancer.

Like a gross-out version of Chuck Yeager, Green wants to test the limits — of what the audience can withstand.

As character Gord Brody, he sees a horse on a stud farm, grabs its erect penis and waggles it at the camera; then he spies a roadkill deer, plunges a knife into its stiff belly and cavorts in its carcass.

Along the way, you'll see a man suffer a compound fracture after falling from a skateboard, and as he screams and writhes on the ground, the shattered bone jutting through the flesh in his leg, Green leans down and licks the wound.

Eewwww!

Eventually such scenes stop offending and become dull.

Unlike great sicko comedies like "There's Something About Mary," and "American Pie," the disgusting events in "Freddy Got Fingered" have no connection with each other.

You know the film is toying with you when, in the final hour, a character is seen holding a sign that reads: "When the (expletive) is this movie going to end?"

Or, as Green might put it: It's not funny! This movie is not funny! It's not funny at all! Don't see it! It's boring! Boring! Boring! Boring and annoying! It's not funny!

The 20th Century Fox release runs 95 minutes. *AP*

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Treasury bill yield slides to 9.855%

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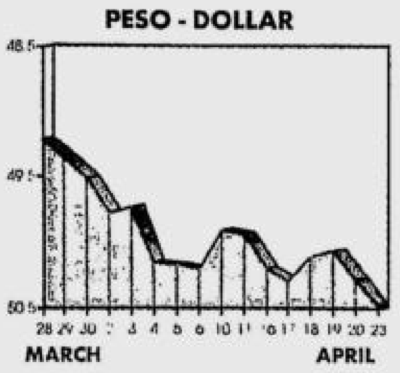

GRAPHS BY ROBERT B. ANDRES

Peso-Dollar Rate

P50.48 = $1
As of 5 p.m., April 23, 2001

¥122.30 = $1
The US dollar was trading at 122.30 as of 5 p.m., April 23, 2001

GOLD:$262.60/263.10
per ounce Hong Kong, April 23, 2001

April 23, 2001

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.108156	1.000000	50.2180
Japan	Yen	0.009053	0.008169	0.4103
United Kingdom	Pound	1.598293	1.442300	72.4294
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.142091	0.128223	6.4391
Switzerland	Franc	0.653780	0.589971	29.6272
Canada	Dollar	0.717671	0.647626	32.5225
Singapore	Dollar	0.611059	0.551420	27.6912
Australia	Dollar	0.574233	0.518188	26.0224
Bahrain	Dinar	2.950644	2.662661	133.7135
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.295477	0.266638	13.3900
Brunei	Dollar	0.611734	0.552029	27.7218
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000094	0.000085	0.0043
Thailand	Baht	0.024270	0.021901	1.0998
UAE	Dirham	0.301720	0.272272	13.6730
Korea	Won	0.000844	0.000762	0.0383
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.902400	45.3167
Germany	Mark	0.511292	0.46139	23.1701
France	Franc	0.152450	0.137570	6.9085
Netherlands	Guilder	0.453780	0.409491	20.5638
Austria	Schilling	0.072673	0.065580	3.2933
Belgium	Franc	0.024789	0.022370	1.1234
Italy	Lire	0.000516	0.000466	0.0234
Finland	Markka	0.168188	0.151773	7.6217
Portugal	Escudo	0.004988	0.004501	0.2260
Spain	Peseta	0.006011	0.005424	0.2724
Luxemburg	Franc	0.024789	0.02237	1.1234
Ireland	Punt	1.269738	1.145812	57.5404

By CLARISSA S. BATINO

THE 91-DAY treasury bill yield, the government's benchmark borrowing rate, slid back to single-digit level in yesterday's auction as the market digested a half-a-percentage point cut in the central bank's overnight rates last Friday.

The yield of the 91-day bills slid by 0.172 percentage point to 9.855 percent while the six-month instrument posted a 0.046 point decline to 10.959 percent.

The one-year treasury bills registered the most significant decline of 0.27 percentage point to 11.368 percent.

"As expected the treasury bill rates followed the BSP cut although I was expecting a larger decline in longer-dated instruments," Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

Securities dealers explained that the market hesitated in aggressively positioning for the 182-day bills following a recently oversubscribed offering of the government's four-year debt papers called the Retail Treasury Bonds.

The four-year bonds were offered with a yield of 14.25 percent and dealers naturally flocked to the higher-yielding instrument compared to both the six-month and one-year debt papers of the government.

As a result, the six-month treasury bills were slightly under-subscribed with the auction committee accepting only P1.48 billion worth of bids or P20 million less than the ceiling.

Buenaventura said the recent decision of monetary authorities to bring down the central bank's overnight rates back to their levels a year ago should help bring down the government's borrowing rate and the banks' lending rates.

He said an expected half-percentage point cut in US short-term rates in May could again prompt the Monetary Board to bring down the BSP's overnight rates although he said the prevailing central bank rates were low enough.

The 91-day treasury bill yield is used by banks as basis in pricing their loans.

The government borrows P4 billion a week from the private sector by issuing treasury bills but temporarily suspended a weekly P3-billion issuance of treasury bonds.

Yields on treasury bills rose for three consecutive weeks previously as the financial markets harbored the impression that the government would start borrowing aggressively from the private sector to help breach a widening deficit.

The government had announced two weeks ago that it sustained a deficit of P38.91 billion as of end-March. This was 79 percent more compared to a P21.686-billion deficit in the first quarter last year but was 25 percent lower from the programmed budget gap of P48.552 billion for the first three months of the year.

MOODY'S

RP's negative rating stays

By CLARISSA S. BATINO

MOODY'S Investor Services has belittled efforts of the Macapagal administration to put in place reforms and cited a "re-emergence" of political uncertainties as a factor in retaining its negative outlook for the Philippines.

The foreign credit-rating firm also said it saw no significant growth, no immediate recovery in fiscal position, and no dramatic rebound in investor confidence in the Philippines.

In its annual report on the country, Moody's said political uncertainties, declining economic fundamentals, and worsening regional conditions continued to place downward pressure on the outlook for the Philippines.

"The new government of President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has set a much more deliberate and responsible tone to policymaking but it faces considerable challenges due to structural, economic and political problems," said Moody's analyst Thomas Byrne in his report.

Moody's continued to rate the Philippines below investment grade or Ba1, similar to Standard & Poor's and IBCA Fitch's ratings of BB+.

Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura yesterday expressed disappointment with Moody's citing political uncertainty as a factor in retaining a negative outlook for the country.

"It is obvious the political uncertainty is the first issue to be resolved by this government that had been accepted by the public. It won't help us in restoring confidence of foreign investors but I believe we will be proven right," he said.

An analyst feared the decision of Moody's to keep a negative outlook on the Philippines would influence another top credit-rating firm, Standard & Poor's, to also put off plans to restore its outlook for the Philippines back to stable from negative as what IBCA Fitch had done last month.

Buenaventura said Standard & Poor's would likely release the results of its recent review of the Philippines after the May 14 elections. The BSP chief said he was hopeful Standard & Poor's would come up with a more favorable outlook for the country.

"The relatively steady macroeconomic performance of the Philippines in the last several years has faltered. Without a recovery in exports and continued favorable agriculture output, GDP growth will remain well below non-inflationary potential," Moody's said in its report.

The ratings firm also doubted a "durable bounce back in foreign investments" given the slowdown in Asian economies, particularly in Japan and the decline in US demand for electronics and other products from the Philippines.

"The outlook for this year is for a continued rise in the deficits. Weaker economic growth and deeply entrenched inefficiencies and irregularities in the collection of revenue may impede fiscal consolidation, even under a more determined government," Moody's said.

Ecozone exports surged 19% in first 3 months

By GIL C. CABACUNGAN JR.

EXPORTS from companies operating in economic zones surged by 19 percent in the first quarter this year as more private business enclaves started their operations.

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza) reported that exports hit $5.19 billion from January to March this year from $4.369 billion during the same period last year. Peza is on track of hitting its export target of $23.029 billion this year, up 15 percent from last year.

Exports from government-owned ecozones rose 6.23 percent to $1.584 billion in the first quarter this year from $1.492 million during the same period last year.

Private industrial estates jacked up their exports by 26 percent to $3.606 billion in the first quarter this year from $2.867 billion during the same period last year.

There were 27 private ecozones that were in operation in the first quarter this year, five more than last year. The new industrial estates were Amkor Anam ($390.205 million in exports in the first quarter), People's Technology Complex ($78.927 million), Carmelray Industrial Park II ($28.785 million), Calamba Premier ($18.853 million), and Greenfield Automotive Park ($1.476 million).

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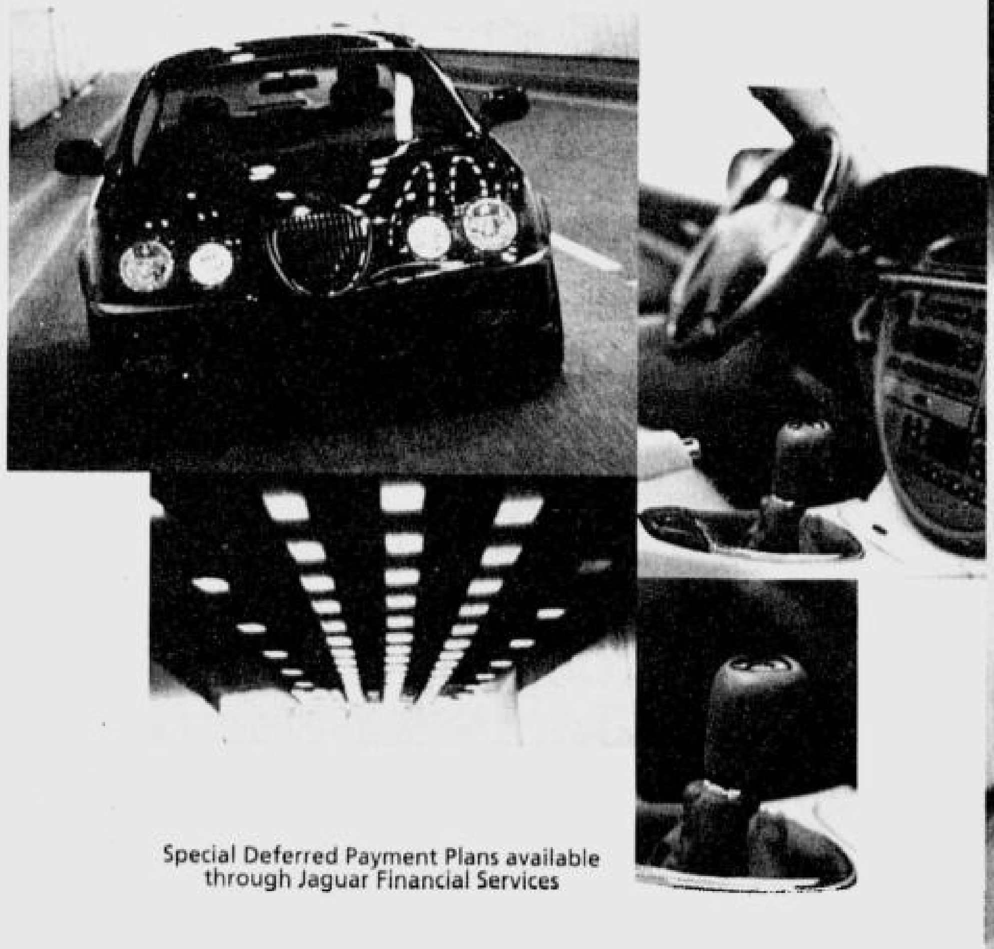

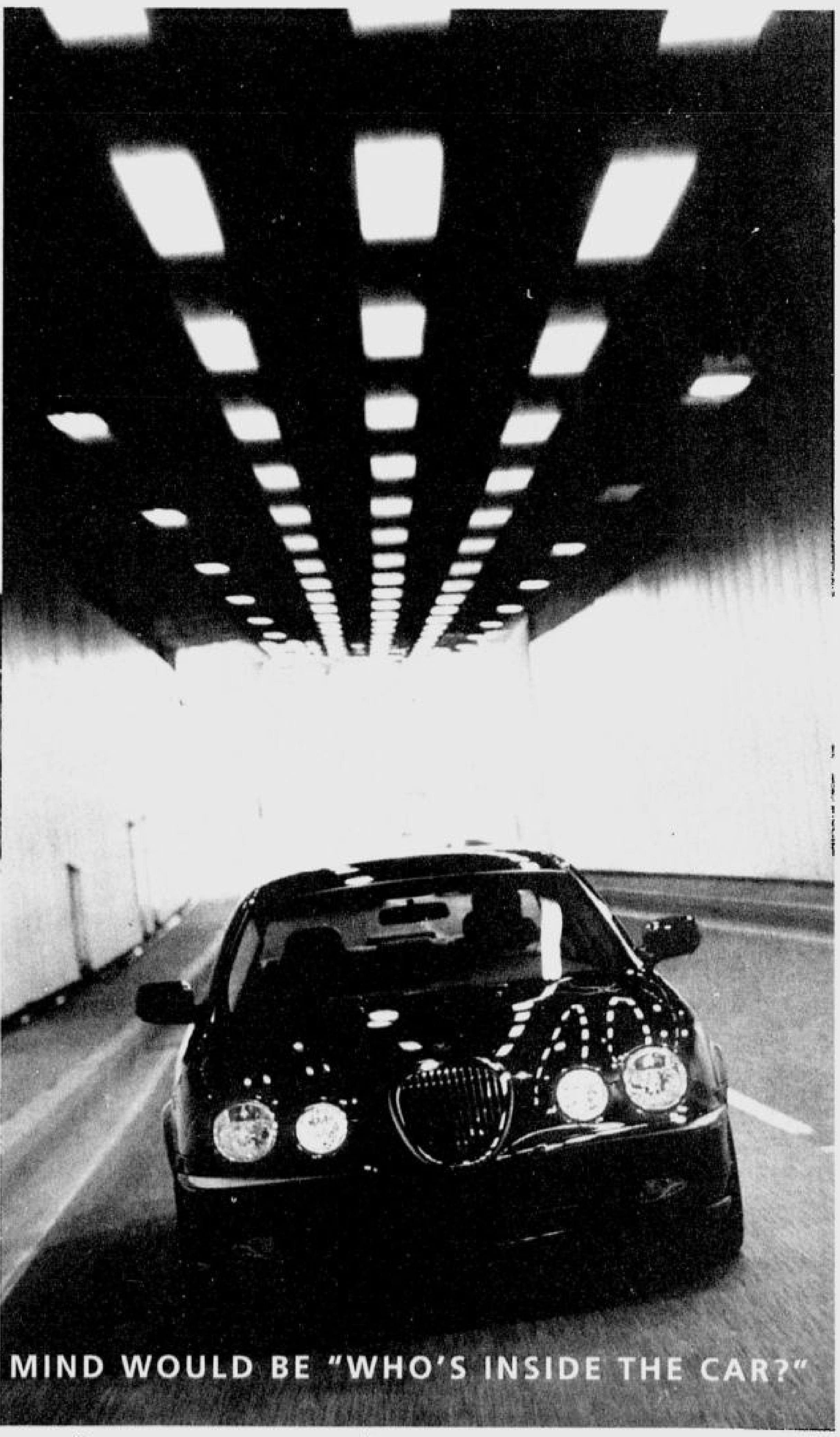

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BUSINESS SLUMP

Movie outfit sets expansion into IT

By Doris C. Dumlao

PUBLICLY listed film and gaming company Premiere Entertainment Productions Inc. is scouting for fresh opportunities in the telecommunications and information technology sectors because of a slump in its core movie production business.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday, Premiere Entertainment spokesperson Anastacio Diaz Jr. said the company had appointed an adviser to look into this plan to migrate into a new line of business.

Diaz said the company would like to acquire a company or a new project in line with plans to redirect operations to the telecom or IT business.

Analysts said the company was forced to explore new sources of revenue to make up for the slack in film production revenues.

Premiere Entertainment, which debuted on the local stock exchange in May 1997, is principally engaged in movie production but also has interests in gaming and operation of cable channel.

The company's core business is the production of full-feature films and licenses these films to TV stations.

Among its key projects are the expansion of the roving camera where mobile vans equipped with projectors and other equipment provide film screenings in provincial communities.

In partnership with the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp., it diversified into gaming with the establishment of a subsidiary called Premium Events Palace Inc. to manage and operate bingo parlors in the country.

During the Estrada regime, Premium Events Palace planned to venture into the online bingo system but the plan was shelved when businessman Dante Tan's Best World Gaming was awarded the license by Pagcor.

COUNTRY SHARES
AS OF MARCH 28, 2001

	BUYING	SELLING
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB A/B*	1,850,000/2,100,000 *	2,150,000 *
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	800,000	850,000
CAMP JOHN HAY		350,000
CANYON WOODS		Please call
CAPITOL HILLS	120,000	
CELEBRITY SPORTS	200,000	215,000
CLUB FILIPINO		350,000
EAGLE RIDGE A/B*/C**	450,000	500,000*/700,000 **
EVERCREST A/B*	130,000 *	150,000/170,000 *
FONTANA D/C*/S**	88,000/120,000 *	90,000/150,000*/280,000 **
FOREST HILLS A/B*/C**	290,000	300,000/420,000*/450,000 **
LUISITA GOLF CLUB		550,000
MAKATI SPORTS A/B*	395,000/450,000 *	405,000/500,000 *
MT. MALARAYAT A/C (w/ lot)*	325,000	400,000/2,000,000 *
MANILA POLO CLUB	3,500,000	4,000,000
MANILA SOUTHWOODS A/B*	850,000/900,000 *	
METROPOLITAN A/B*	160,000	180,000 *
MIMOSA IND./CORP*	200,000/550,000 *	240,000/550,000 *
ORCHARD A/B*/C**	300,000/600,000 **	330,000/425,000 *
PHILIPPINE COLUMBIAN	80,000	90,000
PUERTO AZUL A/B*	130,000	150,000/Please call *
QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	235,000	240,000
RIVIERA A/B*	250,000	280,000/420,000 *
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ROYALE TAGAYTAY A/B*	100,000	120,000/150,000 *
SHERWOOD HILLS A/B*/C**	250,000	275,000/350,000*/450,000 **
SUBIC BAY IND/CORP	Please call	Please call
TAT FILIPINAS GOLF A/B*	320,000	350,000/550,000 *
TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS CO/GOLF*	480,000/1,100,000 *	485,000/1,250,000 *
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	850,000	875,000
VALLE VERDE IND.	185,000	195,000
VALLEY GOLF	330,000	360,000
WACK WACK	10,500,000	11,000,000

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BPI interested in DBS Bank

THE BANK of the Philippine Islands said yesterday it was interested in working out a merger with DBS Bank Philippines Inc., but there were some ownership issues it wanted sorted out first.

In an interview, BPI president Xavier Loinaz said BPI, the country's No. 2 lender, was "certainly" interested in acquiring a stake in DBS Bank Philippines, but it was still awaiting for a resolution of the debt problems hounding one of DBS Bank Philippines' owners.

The ASB group of companies, which controls 28 percent of DBS Bank Philippines, is seeking a rehabilitation plan to keep itself afloat amid a mountain of debts.

The Securities and Exchange Commission is set to decide this week on a rehabilitation plan submitted by the ASB group.

DBS Bank Philippines is also owned by the Development Bank of Singapore, which controls a 71-percent stake.

DBS is a common owner of BPI and DBS Bank Philippines. It owns 21.7 percent of BPI.

At present, the ASB group cannot sell its stake in DBS Bank Philippines because of its rehabilitation bid.

Elena R. Torrijos

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Any investor who has at least P5,000.00 can purchase RTBs. An investor can invest up to a maximum of P2,000,000.00.
4. **How does an investor participate in the Public Offering?**
The investor fills up an Application to Purchase Form and submits this together with 2 valid IDs and payment. For corporations, copies of Board Resolutions indicating authorized signatories and specimen signatures and the payment are required.
5. **After the Public Offering, can an investor still buy or sell RTBs?**
Yes, the RTBs can be bought and sold at the secondary market at prevailing market prices.
6. **What are the risks involved in investing in RTBs?**
Because they are the direct and unconditional obligation of the Republic of the Philippines, RTBs are **RISK FREE** (payment guaranteed).
7. **How much will an investor gain if he invests in RTBs?**

Actual Computation :

Face Value	P5,000.00
Coupon Rate p.a.	14.25%
Gross Quarterly Coupon	178.12
Less Withholding Tax (20%)	35.62
End Quarterly Coupon	P142.50

8. **What is an investor's proof of ownership?**
The Investor is given a duly acknowledged copy of the Application to Purchase Form with a Confirmation of Sale (COS).
9. **Where can an investor purchase RTBs?**
An investor can purchase RTBs from the following Underwriters or any of their branches or business centers.

Philippine Stock Exchange

(As of Monday, April 23, 2001)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Bank Of The Phil. Islands	73.5	77	73.5	76	526,200
China Banking Corp.	600	600	600	600	1,980
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	43.5	44	43.5	43.5	61,700
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	216	217	205	213	96,320
Philippine National Bank	43	43	43	43	300
Phil. Savings Bank	28.5	30	28.5	30	3,100
Security Bank Corp.	18.5	19	18.5	19	55,000
Union Bank of the Phil.	26	26	26	26	2,300
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
BANKARD INC.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	43,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	220	220	220	220	60
Manulife Financial Corp.	1275	1285	1275	1285	7,510
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1	1	1	1	4,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1010	1015	1010	1010	9,270
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	39	40.5	39	39.5	28,200
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.41	0.43	0.41	0.42	7,520,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	690	690	655	655	170
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.042	0.047	0.042	0.047	300,000
Piltel	0.5	0.5	0.49	0.49	620,000
Philstar.Com Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	5,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	680	685	680	685	32,360
Ivantage Corp.	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	80,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.047	0.047	0.046	0.046	39,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	40.5	41.5	40.5	41.5	12,300
Manila Electric Co. B	55	55	54	54.5	363,300
Petron Corp.	1.86	1.9	1.86	1.88	2,131,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.94	0.95	0.94	0.95	20,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.08	1.12	65,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	1.3	1.4	1.3	1.38	15,343,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	20,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	80,000
Union Cement Corp.	1	1	1	1	280,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2	2	2	2	228,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13	13.25	13	13	152,000
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	29.5	30.5	29.5	30.5	113,400
RFM Corp.	0.9	0.9	0.88	0.9	1,310,000
San Miguel Corp. A	46	46	46	46	14,400
San Miguel Corp. B	51.5	52	51	51	27,800
Phil Tob Flue Cur & Redry	10.75	10.75	10.75	10.75	1,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.47	0.5	0.47	0.5	310,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.6	791,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.24	1.24	1.2	1.2	418,000
Alliance Global Group Inc.	12.25	12.5	12	12.25	2,900
A. Soriano Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	780,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.48	1.6	1.48	1.5	11,661,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	600,000
Dmci Holdings Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	220,000
Fil-Estate Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	10,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	70,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	22.5	22.75	22.5	22.75	64,000
Global Equities Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	20,000
Ionics Inc.	13	13	12.75	13	508,800
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.96	2	1.96	1.96	285,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.74	0.81	0.74	0.8	12,390,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.49	1,660,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.44	0.44	0.42	0.42	12,270,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.27	0.28	3,160,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.27	960,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	10,000
Music Corp.	2.55	2.6	2.55	2.6	61,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	1,000,000
Pryce Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	160,000
Central Azucar Don Pedro	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	40,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	13	13	12.75	12.75	55,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.6	0.61	0.52	0.52	7,200,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.54	0.56	0.54	0.54	1,360,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	60,000
Manila Jockey Club	20	20	20	20	5,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	38	40.5	38	39	97,700
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	670	670	670	670	1,000
Jollibee Warrants	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.75	65,500
Omico Corporation Warrant	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	0.0026	97,000,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series M	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	700
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5.6	5.7	5.6	5.7	995,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.25	0.27	0.25	0.27	1,830,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.34	0.37	0.34	0.35	7,250,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.34	1.34	1.34	1.34	10,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.96	2.1	1.96	2.04	5,839,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	20,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	50,000
SM Development Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	70,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.8	6.8	6.7	6.8	1,223,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	300,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	2,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	100,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	5,000,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	5,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	0.0038	50,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	110,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.02	0.025	0.02	0.021	3,000,000
Interport Res.	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	0.0042	2,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	2,000,000
South China Resources Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	40,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	150,000

DISCLOSURES

ELECTED to the board of **Grand Plaza Hotel Corp.** were Wong Hong Ren, Chan Bernard Charnwut, Bryan Cockrell, Angelito Imperio, Mia Gentugaya, Guia Margarita Santos Qua and Joseph Kong.

* * *

AYALA Corp. and **Development Bank of Singapore** have effected the transfer of 333.8 million **Bank of the Philippine Islands** shares into **Ayala DBS Holdings Inc.**, making it the second largest stockholder of BPI since it now owns 22 percent of the bank. Also elected to the board of Ayala Corp.. were Jaime Zobel de Ayala, Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II, Fernando Zobel de Ayala, Ariston Estrada Jr., Mercedita Nolledo, Minoru Makihara and Naoyuki Nobe.

* * *

PHILCOMSAT Holdings Corp. denied an earlier disclosure that eight directors of the company were removed and replaced during a special stockholders' meeting.

* * *

UNION Cement Corp. announced during its annual stockholders' meeting that its estimated first quarter net income is P89.7 million. *Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research*

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ABS-CBN to buy back shares

By Doris C. Dumlao

ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., the flagship company of the Lopez group, is embarking on a share-buyback program in the stock market to help arrest the downfall of its share prices.

Despite the company's good profit picture, the company's valuation has been weighed down by concerns on the Lopez group's financial footing as a whole. Its shares have fallen by 20.2 percent or P10 since the start of the year.

ABS-CBN vice president and chief finance officer Randolph Estrellado yesterday said in a disclosure to the stock exchange that 10 million common shares of ABS-CBN or its equivalent in Philippine Depository Receipts (PDRs) would be purchased for the employees' stock option plan.

"Given the recent share price decline, ABS-CBN believes that its share prices are undervalued and not reflective of the company's strong fundamentals and dominant position in its industry," Estrellado said.

Based on the closing price of ABS-CBN's common shares at P39.50 yesterday, the buyback deal would be worth about P395 million. Its PDRs closed at P39.

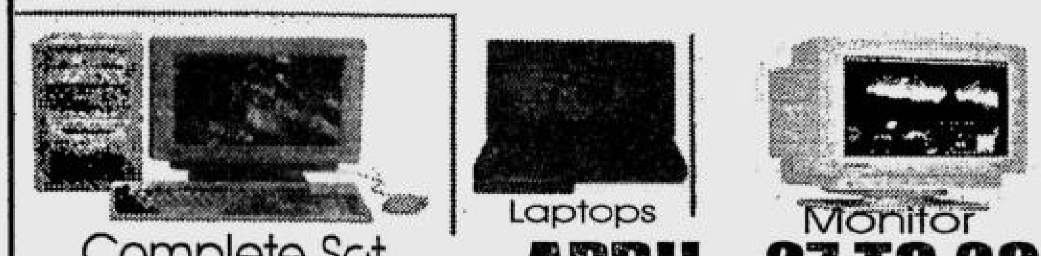
It was reported earlier that the Lopez group was considering to sell a portion of its stake in ABS-CBN to raise funds for other bleeding subsidiaries, particularly Bayan Telecommunications Inc. and Maynilad Water Services Inc.

For the year 2000, ABS CBN reported a net profit of P2.26 billion, 13 percent up from the previous year's level. These earnings would form part of the P3.5-billion expansion programmed by the company for this year.

At present, the company continues to benefit from the carryover effect of its 16-percent rate adjustment last year, the firming up of ratings and its commanding 46-percent audience share, which had propped up airtime revenues by 18 percent.

UHF broadcast operator Studio 23 was fully consolidated into ABS-CBN's balance sheet, which contributed additional airtime revenue growth of 5 percent or P404 million.

The buyback of shares is a usual practice among companies with sufficient retained earnings which believe that their shares are undervalued. Among the companies seen to have been actively buying back shares recently are Jollibee Foods Corp., Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc., San Miguel Corp., RFM Corp. and Megaworld Corp.



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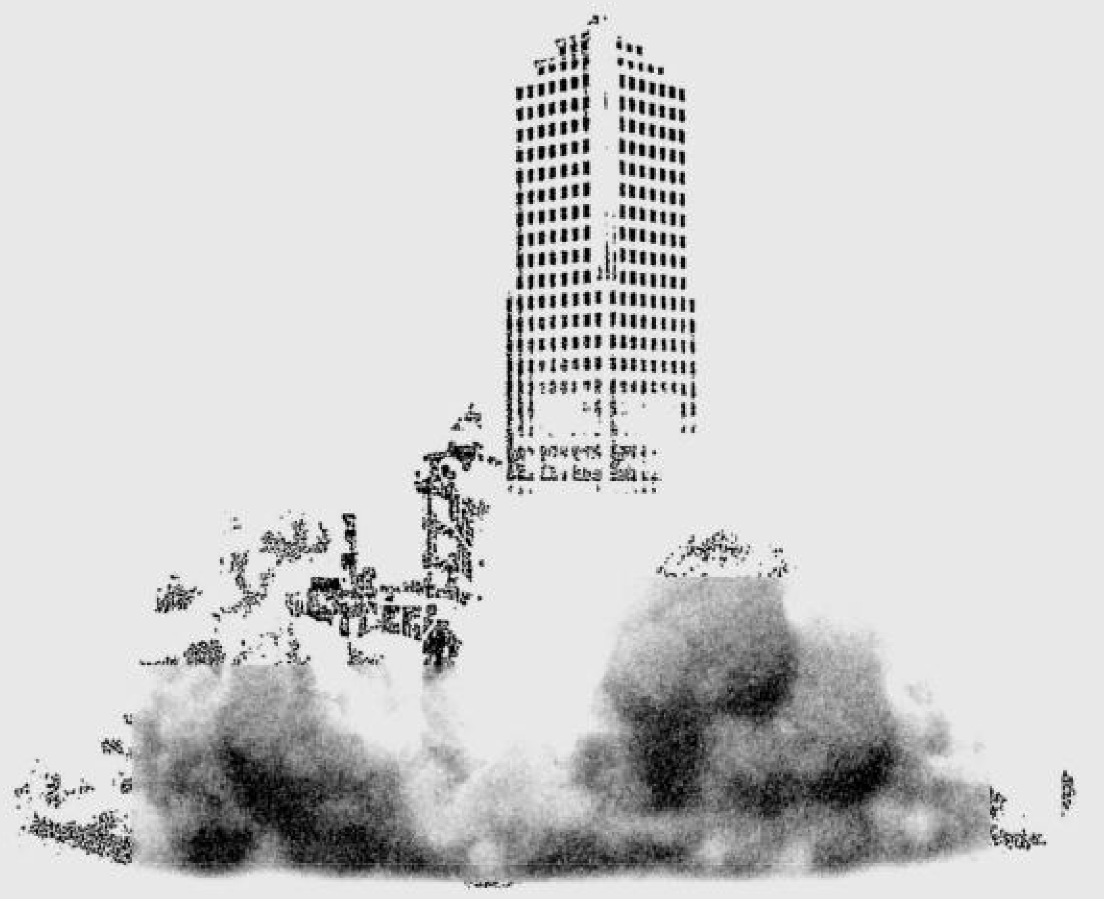

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9.20 a.m.
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10.00 a.m.
"Novell eProvisioning Solutions"

10.40 a.m.
Tea Break

1[illegible].15 a.m.
"Desktop and Server Management Solutions"

Live Demonstrations

Question & Answer Session

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Lunch

1.30 p.m.
Ends

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Gov't not working out a deal with Danding, says Romulo

By Clarissa S. Batino

FINANCE Secretary Alberto Romulo said yesterday the government would not enter into any compromise deal with businessman Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco Jr. to settle the ownership of sequestered shares in San Miguel Corp.

"I don't think the Macapagal administration would enter into any compromise because it would affect small coconut farmers whose interests we vow to protect," Romulo said in an interview.

He said the government was not working out an "80-20" settlement with Cojuangco, a close associate of former Presidents Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada, to end questions regarding the ownership of a 27-percent stake in San Miguel.

A government source earlier quoted Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo as saying that the Macapagal administration was ready to surrender 20 percent of the disputed San Miguel shares to Cojuangco to gain control of the remaining 80 percent.

Marcelo himself denied such a deal was in the works.

"I think there are some groups floating the idea around. I am not sure if the proposal came from Cojuangco's camp, but we are not going to enter into any compromise, especially after our cases got a boost in recent oral arguments presented to the Supreme Court," he told reporters.

The same source said the government was also working out an 80-20 deal with Cojuangco regarding the ownership of a 95.5-percent stake in United Coconut Planters Bank.

This, too, was denied by Marcelo.

Marcelo revealed that Cojuangco's camp had indirectly admitted that the so-called coco levy funds were public funds after they referred to these funds as taxes.

Government lawyers have asked the Supreme Court to oust five Estrada nominees in San Miguel.

State pension funds Government Service Insurance System and Social Security System have also filed proxy statements with the Securities and Exchange Commission to solicit voting rights from its members and get majority control of San Miguel.

The government needs about 150 million shares so it could have eight of the 15 San Miguel board seats. With a majority, the government could take control from Cojuangco.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government's 27 percent would give it five board seats while the SSS and GSIS have a seat each.

Ousted President Estrada had appointed, through the PCGG, five representatives to San Miguel board, including his brother-in-law, Raul de Guzman, movie producer Espiridion Laxa, Alan Lee, Ben Paulino and Dr. Hermogenes Tantoco.

Cruz said the PCGG had written the five repeatedly, asking them to resign but the Erap appointees said their term would end on May 3.

Before Estrada, the PCGG would require these nominees to sign a trust document, which expressly stated that they would abide with any decision of their principal. During the time of Estrada, this document was not executed.

SEC bars undercapitalized firms from selling policies

By Elena R. Torrijos

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission has barred pre-need companies with a paid-up capital of less than P26 million from further selling pre-need plans effective this month.

In a resolution issued last week, the SEC allowed undercapitalized pre-need companies to sell only plans already approved for sale by the SEC until they meet the SEC's P26-million capital requirement.

SEC director for non-traditional securities and instruments Francisco Villaruz said last week five pre-need companies had yet to raise their paid-up capital to P26 million.

He also disclosed that the number of pre-need companies licensed to deal with or sell plans this year had dwindled to 49 from 56 last year.

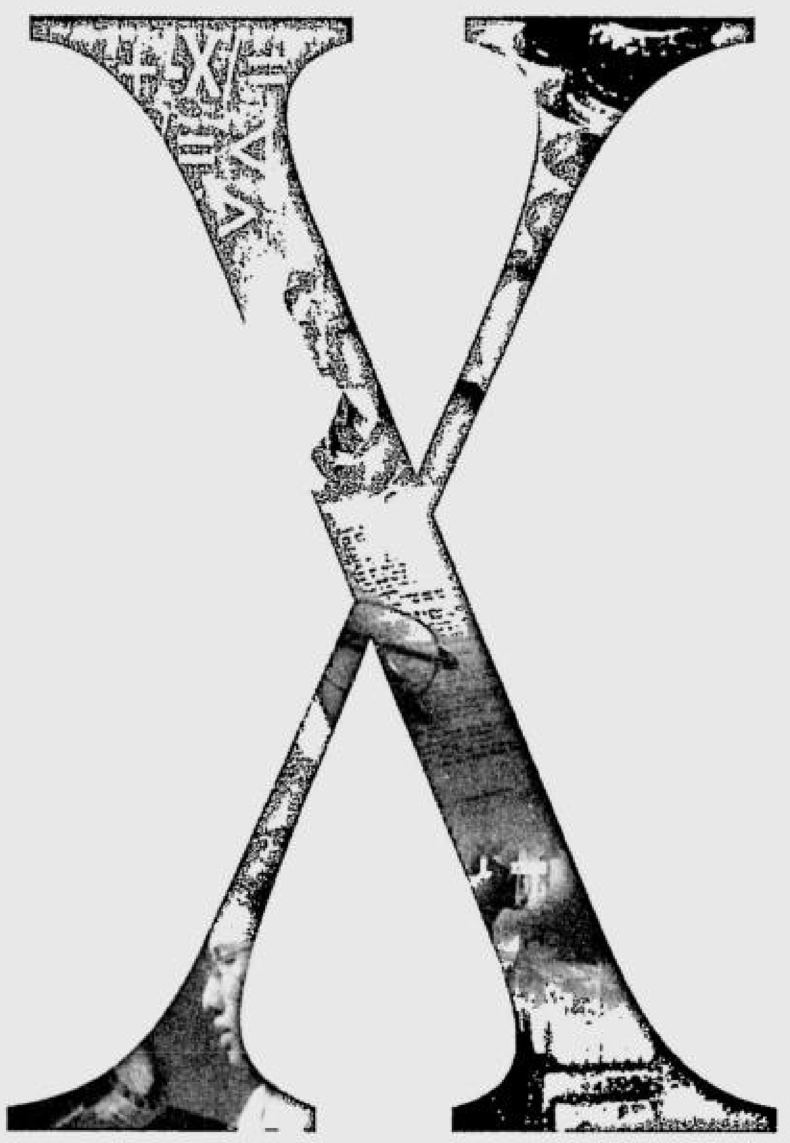
Seven licensed pre-need companies last year had not applied or failed to meet requirements for a dealership license this year, he added.

"We are looking into whether they are just servicing existing clients and have no intention to sell additional plans," Villaruz said.

The SEC said for pre-need companies with a paid-up capital of less than P100 million but more than P26 million, their application to sell additional plans would be considered on a case-to-case basis.

Factors to be considered include whether they are single plan or multi-plan pre-need companies, their outstanding liabilities, their number of branches, their number of employees and their risk capital.

The SEC also extended by six months from Oct. 1 this year a moratorium against allowing the establishment of new pre-need companies to encourage consolidation in the industry.



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Holderfin to raise equity in Alsons

By Doris C. Dumlao

SWISS cement giant Holderbank Financiere Glarus AG plans to further increase its stake in Alsons Cement Corp. through the conversion into equity of up to $60 million in cash advances to the local cement group.

Holderfin currently controls around 49 percent interest in Alsons, consisting of a 30-percent direct stake and another 40-percent stake in Cemco Holdings, a joint venture company with the Alcantara group.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Alsons corporate secretary Allen Morallos-Arbis said the company's board of directors approved the restructuring of the loans from the Swiss group.

"Restructuring may involve the conversion of all or a portion of the loans to equity in the corporation and/or the issuance of any debt or equity instrument to the lender, or any of its designee or assignee,". Morallos-Arbis said.

Alsons would eventually increase its authorized capital stock depending on the value of the debt-to-equity conversion.

The Alsons board assigned financial consulting firm JP Morgan to come up with the fair value of the corporation, which will be submitted to an independent committee constituted by the board.

Holderfin provided a $60-million loan to Alsons in 1999 to which was used to repay an P8-billion debt. At the same time, the Swiss group raised its interest in the company from 30 to 49 percent.

Without the emergency loan from Holderfin, the recession that led to a plunge in cement prices would have caused the company to default on its debt payments.

A portion of the seven-year $60-million loan extended in 1999 to refinance the company's debts is set to mature this year.

Alsons Cement is part of the Alcantara group of companies, which also has interests in power, property, gas distribution and plywood businesses.

Since it went public in 1996, it has embarked on an aggressive program to hike its production capacity. The glut in the construction and real estate sectors, however, has adversely affected the company's capacity to service debts in 1999.

Lopez power firm considering public offering

FIRST Generation Holdings is considering an initial public offering, and taking in foreign investors as minority shareholders.

First Generation chief Peter Garrucho said in a news briefing the company was in talks with at least three interested investors.

"Our attraction is that we are a holding company for four power plants, and we have a growth story," Garrucho told reporters.

First Generation, a company under the Lopez group of companies, owns power plants in Sta. Rita, San Lorenzo and Bauang in La Union province, and in Panay. These power plants have a total capacity of about 1,800 megawatts.

"We are the third biggest (firm in terms of aggregate capacity)," Garrucho pointed out.

Garrucho said First Generation had yet to hire financial advisers for its IPO.

He said the company was offering 7 percent to 10 percent of its equities to investors in Singapore, Hong Kong and New York.

First Generation earlier considered selling as much as a 40-percent stake to foreign investors.

Garrucho said this plan was dropped because the company did not get any acceptable offers. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

Shares up slightly

SHARE prices rose 0.6 percent yesterday on selective buying interest, dealers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index added 8.62 points to close at 1,437.16.

Volume hit 309.75 million shares worth P259.82 million from Friday's 236 million shares worth P41 million.

The day's gain was largely due to interest in the Bank of the Philippine Islands, which closed P4 higher at P76, on news of a better-than-expected three-month profit.

"Somehow, people still find some reasons to buy into the market despite the upcoming elections," said Joseph Roxas of Eagle Equities.

Investors also bought into property stocks on expectations they would benefit from the central bank's recent cut in overnight rates, brokers said, adding that concerns over May's congressional elections were temporarily set aside.

Roxas predicted the main index would trade in a tight band of between 1,420 and 1,480 this week.

But Summit Securities analyst Harry Liu said the market would likely be listless until after the elections, whose results analysts earlier said would be taken as a referendum on the new government.

AFP

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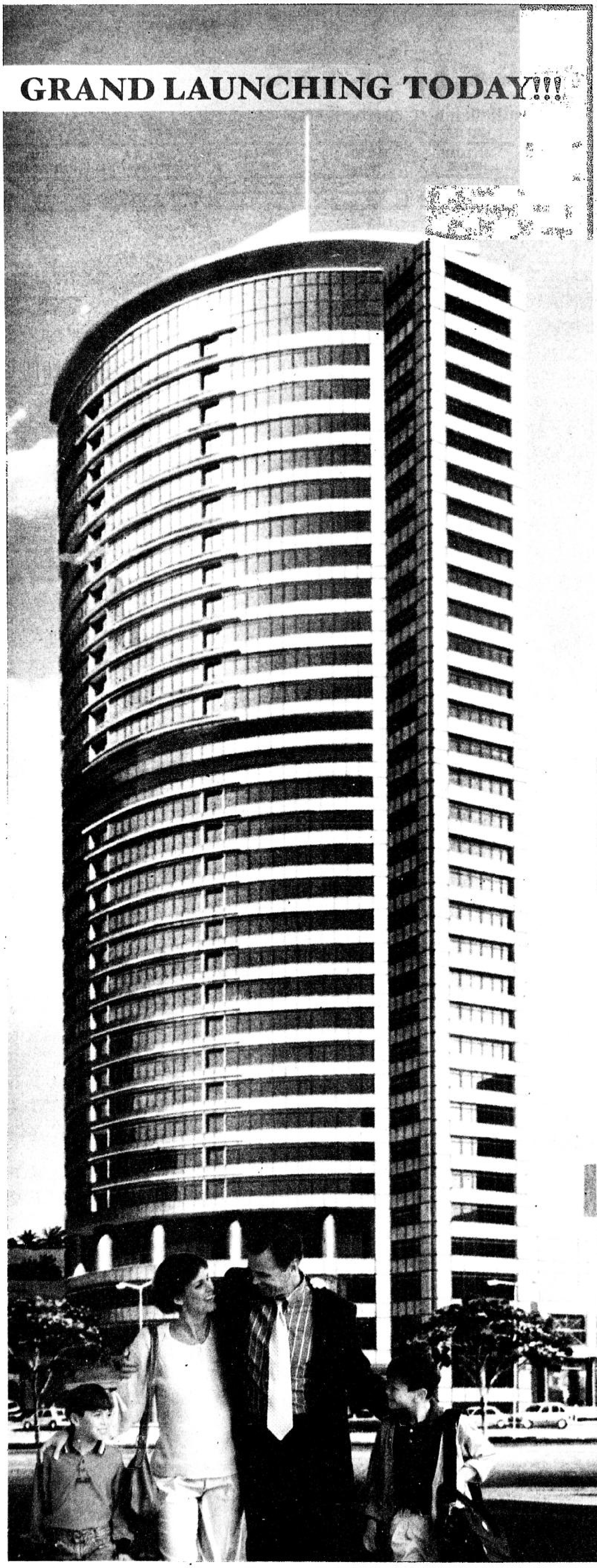

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for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Mondays to Saturdays 12:00 noon Day before publication
Sundays 12:00 noon every Thursday

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PERSONAL

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COSMETOLOGY

Derma Clinic: treats all skin diseases 8156172 Mktl

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M/F VIP 0917-3849954 ok

Reflex Call 09179760380

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Caloocan GP 325m² Hse w/3 Stry 9283267

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•Nr Vergara St P4M LA250• 3BR FA180 DBO 7215226

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Kamias w/Comm'l Units 600m² 15M 9283267

Mayon QC w/6 Units 480m² 22T/m² 9283267

Nr. Morato 7 Units Apt. 690m² 25T/m² 9283267

Nr. Retiro Banawe 267m² w/Hse 7M Nice 9283267

Panay QC 1000m² w/2 Hse 2Stry-Bung 26T/m² 9283267

SAN JUAN

San Juan P. Guevarra 300 P10M Call 723-2391

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LAS PINAS

Auburn Bnew 2Stry 3br 2tb 2.2M Terms 8726951

BFR 3br 2tb 1.8M 3br 2tb 2.5M 8726951 / 8723140

BFR Bnew Cor. 2Stry 4br 4tb 2.9M 8726951

Manuela 4A2MLA192FA120 33BR 2TB w/ tel 8747234

LAS PINAS/ BACOOR 2-4 BRS.Cash or Terms 874-0486 • 874-0487 873-5949 • 874-2175

MAKATI

•DASMA VILL 1679m² 2sty 5BR pool 47k/m² 844-0130

DASMA-1679m² 5BR 4TB Pool @78m 8440130 Rosie

MANILA

Capt. Ticong - 419m² nr Sch 2sty P12.5M 8440130

L. Guinto 323m² 2Stry 3br Nr Sch @11M 8440130

L.Guinto - 323m² 2sty 3BR 3car grge P11M 8440130

SAMPALOC 3STY DECK P 1.6M (0919) 8297290

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Good Buy @ 2.2M nice LA240 Rancho Est. III 8253244

Good Buy @ 8.5M very nice Tri-Lev LA600 Big pool 8253244

Grnlnd bnew 3br 2M 9487112

Ipil St., Marikina Heights 5Brms Pool • T634-1212

MUNTINLUPA

SOLDIERS HILLS 3Bdrm w/ attic LA210m² FA115m² VIC/ GIGIE 8903461 loc. 27

Sto. Nino Vill 149m² 3Bdrm P1.3M Vic 8903461 loc 27

PARANAQUE

3BR P3M Neg 820-4498

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**Kawilihan Pasig Duplex P7.8M Neg. 671-4421

**Kawilihan Pasig P10M Cor. 3Br Call 671-4421

GREEN PARK SUBD. 225m² w/ 7BR & 3TB FA264m² P4.5M Vic 8903461 loc. 27 & 25

Pasig City H&L A-250m² P2.5M • 534-6610 Jojo

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Valle Verde 5 LA420 3BR P18M Only • 723-2391

VVerde 5 LA420 3BR P20M 1100 cor P39M • 723-2391

QUEZON CITY

Ayala Heights P15.5M Fixer Upper 671-4421

D. Tuazon St SMH QC 411m '2Stry 928-1469

Samat St w/ 5Stry Bldg 600m² SMH w/Hse 9298376

B'ful 6 Brs Big Garden 2 Yrs Old P15.5M 671-4421

Loyola Grand Villas 0917-7062620; 435-2346

Mayon St SMH QC A-960m² 534-6610 • 818-8569 Jojo

Mira Nila QC 354FA 5br 5t&b 3stry 150LA 6.9M 9289714/9279609/4532899

VV Greenmeadows 15Mup 412-1825 / 0917-7914366

LGV 1000m² 4br attic 25M Panoramic View 412-1825

Nr Ateneo FA315 LA268 H²O Ok w/View 12M 6453731

•NR CHERRY • CONG'L• P3.7M Bnew 4BR 4TB Conc w/Guard 4538942•4555094

P. Tuazon QC 1100m² 4BR 3TB 6CG P27.5M 928-2497

Sikatuna Bung LA412 4br FA250 8.5M Nice 6453731

Sta. Mesa Height Lot 90m² 3BR T&B w/Pkg • 928-1469

T. Pura QC 475m² 4BR 4TB 5CG w/Garden • 928-2497

Timog QC 493m² 3BR 3TB 4CG P15.5M • 928-2497

RIZAL

Vista Verde 200LA 281FA 4BR 3TB Maids Rm/TB 2cargrge Nice 3.5M RUSH B141619148 C9175351847

SAN JUAN

Greenhills Cor Only P38M 6714421 / 09175279121

Bargain GH H&L Corner 900m² P38M • 671-4421

Ghills N 1000 cor 6B Den Spool P38M M 723-2391

Ghills SEV P20M, 35M, 50M & Up Call 723-2391

PROVINCIAL

Baguio House & Lot Good Location 531-3742

1Hectares Bulacan Rdy 4 Piggery P3.5M 9281469

Tagaytay 249.5M 2Stry B-new Call 928-1469

Tagaytay L286m² 2sty Bnew 9281469 • 4534877

OTHER AREAS

CanyonWoods Bingas 7.5M ownrlvng neg0917-8143792

•LAGUNA BEL-AIR 3• LA120m² up 2-3BR w/prkg Joann 912-5775

NoDP.2650/mo 09195898014

Upper Bicutan 195m² 4BR P1.25M Vic 8903461 loc.27

LOT

ALABANG

AAV Southvale 400-800m² 13,500/14T/m² 874-9074/75

Ayala Southvale 400m² 13,500 gd loc 874-9074/75

KALOOCAN

Deparo Caloocan City 5Tm² VLot P3500/m² 928-1469

LAS PINAS

Manuela 4D 260m² 5500/m² neg 8747234 Pepe

BF Resort Vill 270m² 5,500 Near Seton 874-9074 / 75

BFR Rush 414 5T 526 5.2 5T 343 5.5ST 169 8726951

BFRV 176 180 @ 6500/m² 343 @ 5500/m² 8 8747234

MAKATI

Mktl - Nr P.Burgos 269sqm w/Apt @ 23K/m² 8885007

MANILA

A. Mabini VAC LOT 488m² @P50K/m² 8440130 Rosie

ADRIATICO - 313m² w/ Old House @ 60K/m² 8440130

A.Mabini - Vac. Lot. 488m² @50K/m² nice 8440130

Vito Cruz 909m² @ 50K/m² VL nr Stadium 8440130

LOT

MANDALUYONG

Mand 450 & 301m² 532-3936

9 de Pebrero Near Shaw A-1500m² • 534-6610 Jojo

Wack Wack 1100m² Near Manuela P40T/m² 671-4421

MARIKINA

Marikina East 814m² VAC Mor Sun 16K/m² 8440130

MUNTINLUPA

Hilsboro 400-800 8,500/m² Good Loc. • 874-9074 / 75

PLEASANT VILL w/direct access rd to FILINVEST Alabang 477m² P5,500/m² VIC/GIGI 8903461 loc 27

PARANAQUE

Tahanan-Vac Lot 280sqm @12K/sqm • 844-0130

Maywood 288m² VAC LOT @7500/m² 8440130

•MAYWOOD 288m² VL P7500/m² 888-5007

PASIG

Lot 6971sq.m. & warehouse at Pasig w/ wharf provision CALL: 897-5272 (Zenaida)

QUEZON CITY

**Neopolitan Ph6 P4500/m² 300m² w/Fence 671-4421

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Del Monte Ave. QC 1600m² • V-Lot • 928-1469

L317 Marcos Hiway Comml Vacant Lot • 928-1469

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Nr New York 400m² 20T Neg No Flood 6453731

QC 15th Ave 500m² 25T Neg Facing East 6453731

SFDM QC 519sqm w/Imp. 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

Xavier Ville LA=457sqm P25T/sqm • 928-2497

Xavier Ville LA=280sqm P25T/sqm • 928-2497

RIZAL

Imelda Ave 464sqm Comm'l 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

Taytay 1H Tikling 3.3/2 Nice Flat w'Road 6453731

Taytay 1Ha. Comm'l Nat'l Rd 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

Village East Binangonan 203m² cor. 6313742

SAN JUAN

Ghills North 750-960m² 723-2391; 0917-3848111

Little Baguio 300-500m² 723-2391; 0917-3848111

San Juan Lit Baguio 450m² Good 4 Wrhse 723-2391

San Juan Little Baguio LA=300 & up • 723-2391

PROVINCIAL

**Pampanga 27H Alng Mc Arthur H-way 220/m² 681-2457

Angat Bulacan 180TH m² @ 250/m² farm 8747234

Angat Bulacan Farm Lot 18Has @250m² 872-0470

Baguio Subd. LOT w/Pine Trees Tel. 5313742

Colbella Homes Tanauan Batangas 3Lots 5313742

Fort Magsaysay 18Has Resd'l P450m² 5313742

Grand Victoria N. Ecija 4 Lots 6313742

San Pablo Farm Lot 2.1HA P600/sqm • 842-1571

Sherwood Cavite 345m² B11 L3 Call 723-2391

Tagagytay 2Adj Lots 780 & 805sqm • 723-2391

LOT

PROVINCIAL

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Tagaytay Country Homes I 135m² 3,200/m² 9283267

Villa Segovia Sta Rosa 2 corner LOTS 5313742

Ideal 4 Food Chain, Hotel, etc. Palawan 09173711210

OTHER AREAS

TOWN&COUNTRY Southville 209m² P800T Vic 8903461L.27

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

KALOOCAN

Bnew 50m² 2br 1tb w/grge Nr. Malinta Exit 250T 5.5T Mo. /Amrt Text 09178349005 R-nel

MAKATI

**Rockwell 3 Units 2Brs Fast Selling 671-4421

3 Salcedo 3Br 9155177

Fort Boni The New City 3BR Only P8 2M • 671-4421

Medical Plaza Mktl 30sqm 2.2M, 48m² 3,3M Pkg 8150298

MANILA

3BRnrDLSlle Taft 8992148

MANDALUYONG

Various Wack-Wack Condo Lee Gardens 5346610 Jojo

Wack' Twin 2br FA145 Fcing Gil Crse Call 723-2391

PASIG

**Renaissance Ortigas 1-3Br Rush Sale 6812457

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Renaissance 3000 New 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

Renaissance 3000 2Bdrms 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

Renaissance Tower 237m² 3br 8.5Mneg 8150298/5341271

Sam Miguel Ave. 86.17m² 1Pkrg • T634-1212

TEKTITE EAST 220 sqm 2Parking • T634-1212

QUEZON CITY

Cubao Condo 1.3M EZTerm 9126976 9132224 4381480

PARC CHATEAU PENTHSE 226sqm 1ps • 6337601-03

Blue Ridge 4 3BR 3TB MR w/TB 2CG 6.5M • 928-2497

**Blueridge Like Bnew 250m² 3Br 2Cg 671-4421

El Jardin Bohol Ave QC 2 Studios 1Cg Call 915-5177

Kamias 3Dr 12M 9155177

Nr Ateneo LA72 FA149 3br 2tb Nr Nice 6453731

Rent / Sale 123BR Terms RFO Call 414-0573

Scout Area 3BR 3TB 2CG MR w/TB 5.5M • 928-2497

Scout Thses 4-7M Nice 3Stry 9283267 9283267

SAN JUAN

Annapolis Greenhills 2-3 BR 7-8M 9283267

Condo 3BR 137 P4M Call 723-2391

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

SAN JUAN

Ghills 3br P5.5M w/ Huge Blcny Call 723-2391

Ghills Anapolis FA130 Ofc / Res 2Br P3.8M 723-2391

Ghills Anapolis Condo 3br P9-11M 723-2391

G'hills Condo 3BR P5.5M Fur/Unfur • 723-2391

Ghills Ofc Condo 70m² w/Prkng FFur P32M 723-2391

Greenhills Condo 1BR FA 70 P3M 723-2391

Greenhills Eisenhower St., 3br P6-8M Call 723-2391

Greenhills Ofc 70²m w/Prkng P31M 723-2391

Nr G'Hills LA67 FA200 3br 7M 2Cg Nice 6453731

San Juan Thse FA289 3br Attic P11.5M 723-2391

OTHER AREAS

Condotel Facing L. Taal P1.1M Praise 7532532/33

MEMORIAL LOT

**Heritage Park Now Open Lawn Estates 671-4421

RESORT

**BF Resort Vill Las Pinas 276m² @ 5500 8749075

CLUB SHARE & MEMBERSHIP

Fantcsy World M. Share Praise Realty 7532532/33

Fontana Share 200T 9283267 / 141210187

FACTORY/WHSE

San Juan 1573m²whse off@ 23K/m² 8440130

**Ugong Bul Whse L3774 Tel 9281469 / 4534877

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

MANILA

3 BR NAGTAHAN T715-1687

3BRnrDLSlle Taft 8992148

QUEZON CITY

2BR 8.5T NU BLT 7214304

OTHER AREAS

Baguio NBurnham 4164495

HOUSE

MAKATI

Sanlo Maglines Belair Ecovil 1BR 5BR Mel Call 815-0298

SANLO 3BR 5268048/49

MANDALUYONG

3BR/Tel Pump 10T 533-2068

PARANAQUE

4BR3T SSHW UPS4 8212019

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

2BR FFurn P58T 892-4832 Renaissance Salcedo Makati

Crown Tower Condo, Salcedo Vill 2BR 163sqm FF w/Pkg. Mds Rm. P60T/mo. 896-6665

Essensa East Forbes Luxury 3BR Res Units @ Fort Boni 752-2580•848-7388 0917-8381928•0917-8112635 manila@cbrichardellis.com

IT Bldg Fort Boni Enjoy D Benefits P350/m² 671-4421

Mkt Asia Tower 1-2-3Br 7518342 6337601-03

Mktl Legaspi Salcedo 250m² GF Ortigas Mel Call 815-0298

Prinz Plza2 (0917)9324466

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

PACIFIC PLAZA 3BR FF DIRECT OWNER NO COMMISSION NEEDED 7166269 PAULINE

MANILA

1BR nrDLSU 57m² 9175364840

MANDALUYONG

Cityland Shaw Studio Furn 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

Shaw Tower Condo 1BR FF P20T/mo Marie 929-6427

PASIG

Rush! ~~Rent~~ / Sale Ortigas Renaissance 09178143792

Valle Verde 3BR FA=250 P35-38T • 723-2391

Valle Verde 6 2BR P19T 723-2391 • 0917-3848111

VVerde 6 3Brs w/Attic P35T/mo 6337601-03

SAN JUAN

Eisenhower Comm'l Unit 83.80m² 5313742

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**JMT BLdg 318m² at 280/m² Call 6812457

P1,800/mo Stalls Malate T-400-6420/23 Sn.Pedro Lag. 808-6006/07

**Taipan Ortigas 129m² Call 681-2457

**Tektite 101m² Up at 300/m² Call 6812457

70m² Roosevelt Ave. 2C 438-3970; 0917-7914379

Ayala Life FEU Center F262m² 2Pkg Lot 928-1469

Cnta30m²Clnic/Shp6552773

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

BUSINESS RENTAL

TAIPAN ORTIGAS 166M² 3 exec.rm pantry 4121825

Ortigas Ctr 100/200/400sqm 815-0298 CP 0919-4037225

Zapote Rotonda-Bacoor U/D 190 m² 046-4342422

MALATE G/F 5268048/49

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KIA

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'98 BESTA P250T 7313492

'98 PREGIO P340T 7313492

MITSUBISHI

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97Lncr GLXi 263T Neg8382015

JEEP/JEEPNEY/AUV

99 ISUZU Frwd 6W P350T Vic 8903461 Loc. 27 & 25

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IT/ Hiace 9136710/4333682

L300 VV (Roger) 578-8917

MB100 HiAceL300 9483535

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Ofc. staff 9134470 Nell

. Ofc.Staff 9134470-Nicol

Wtd. H/Maids Yaya/Fam. Cook/Fam. Driver 660-4589

OFC STAFF 913-4470 NAFI

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ANNOUNCEMENT

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is Hereby given that the estate of the late Josephine C. Brosoto located at New York Mension, Cubao QC has been extrajudicially settled by her heirs as per Doc #164; Page #34; Book #23; Series of 2001 by Notary Public Evaristo B. Urbina for City of Pasig . (PDI- Apr. 24, May 1, & 8 2001)

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E-MAIL: cloughl@ccf.org	Mobile Phone# 0919-5833534

INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:
NAME
ADDRESS
PHONE NUMBER
Date Of Birth (DOB)
NURSING LICENSE NUMBER AND OR GSIS
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Cleveland, Ohio, U.S.A.

PEZA

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PHILIPPINE ECONOMIC ZONE AUTHORITY
Roxas Boulevard corner San Luis Street
Pasay City, Philippines

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that **IONICS EMS, INC. (IEI)** with plant site at the Light Industry & Science Park I - Special Economic Zone (LISP I-SEZ) has filed with the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) an application for **PIONEER STATUS** to be granted to its production of flip-chip-on-flex (FCOP) assemblies based on newness of product and technology, which if approved, will entitle the company to six (6) years of Income Tax Holiday. Said application has been officially accepted and is under process in this office.

Any person with valid objections to or pertinent comments on the above-mentioned application may file with the PEZA his/her objections in writing and under oath, within fifteen (15) days from the date of this publication.

Please direct your position papers/comments to the Enterprise Regulations Department of PEZA [Tel. Nos. 510-2947 and 551-3457; and Telefax No. 551-3456].

(Sgd.) **LILIA B. DE LIMA**
Director General

(PDI – Apr. 24, 2001)

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In line with our year 2001 expansion plan, we like to invite suitable candidates for the following positions:

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- College Graduate preferably with marketing principles
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- Must be willing to travel throughout the country
- Around 25 years old

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

- College Graduate in engineering, major in electricals; preferably with marketing orientation
- Minimum 1 year working experience in the electrical industry; Experience in lighting would be an advantage
- Knowledgeable in the electrical wholesale and retail market
- Must be results oriented, self motivated with a high degree of flexibility and integrity
- Around 20 years old

We offer attractive remuneration, benefits and a working environment with high growth potential and very good career advantage of a multinational company

Qualified applicants are requested to send in their comprehensive resume, current and expected salary together with a recent photograph to:

OSRAM Philippines Ltd. Corp.
Human Resources
724 Moriones St., cor. Juan Luna
Tondo, Manila

Tel. (2) 243-9714
Fax (2) 243-9719

Closing date for application is May 15, 2001

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Canadian Certified World Class Computer Training

Townshend College of Business & Computers, based in Toronto, Canada and the West Indies is expanding into the Philippines and opening the first **Townshend IT Canada** school in Makati City.

These IT courses are post-graduate and designed specifically for individuals who have a four year degree in any discipline (not necessarily a technical degree)

You are invited to a FREE!!!

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Hear Experts with corporate IT experience in Canada and the United States

Whether you want to advance in your current company or pursue global opportunities, leading edge IT skills mean better jobs, more money and professional advancement in the hot Information Technology field which is experiencing a shortage of skills world wide. World Class Training Means World Class Opportunities

Classes will be starting soon - Don't miss out - Get information you need for career success now.

Date : Tuesday, April 24, 2001
Time : 5:30 p.m.
Place : Inter-Continental Hotel, No. 1 Ayala Avenue, 1226 Makati

Call (632) 817-2397 now to reserve your seat (Seating is limited)
Refreshments and hors d'oeuvres will be served

OBITUARIES

IN LOVING MEMORY OF THE
7th DEATH ANNIVERSARY
of

Nerissa Villanueva Horne

April 24th 1994

Holy Masses will be offered

Sanctuario de San Antonio, *Forbes Park, Makati*	12:00 NN
Sanctuario de San Antonio, *Forbes Park, Makati*	6:00 PM
Sta. Lucia Catholic Church, *San Fernando, Pampanga*	7:00 AM

The light of her life and love burns brightly in the hearts of her family and friends.

Her family requests that all readers please remember Nerissa in their prayers.

DRA. FILOTEA LAREDO-JUSAY

Died in the Grace of our Lord on April 22, 2001
at the age of 81.

Her loving husband **Honesto C. Jusay** (†); children **Ana Fe Linda & Virgilio, Honesto Jr. & Marita**; grandchildren **Joanne & Michael** and **Czarina**; relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her body lies in state at Laredo Residence at 32 G. Aguilar St., Lucena City.

Interment will be on April 26, 2001 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Lucena City.

Eternal life will swallow up that which can die. God made us for this very reason and He has given us the Spirit as a guarantee that we will live again.

2 Cor. 5:4-5

Florencio "Floring" N. Muñoz, M.D.

of Camalig, Albay
(Mayor of Camalig 1971-1998)

Died in the Grace of our Lord on April 20,2001 at the age of 67

His bereaved wife **Mayor Paz G. Muñoz**; children **Rommel, M.D.** and **Peachy, M.D.**; daughter in-law **Marie**; brothers **Rolando, Pascual, Marcelo, Jose** and their families; sisters **Zenaida** and **Patria** and their families; grandchildren **Van, Vince** and **Raissa**; and relatives request the pious readers to pray that **Floring** may live in eternal peace and joy.

His remains lie at Munoz residence, Camalig, Albay.

We invite all his friends to celebrate his life in a memorial service to be held on May 01, 2001, 2:00 PM at the Parish of St. John the Baptist, Camalig, Albay.

We thank you Lord for all the blessings you have granted to Floring in his mortal life.

CATALINA BUENAVENTURA vda. SANTOS

Joined his Creator on 22 April 2001 at the age of 76.

Her bereaved children **Baby, Emma, Efren, Benny, Willy** and **Rudy**; sons-in-law, daughters-in-law and grandchildren request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Santos residence, Poblacion, San Isidro, Nueva Ecija.

Interment will be on April 28, 2001, at the San Isidro Cemetery after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the San Isidro Labrador Parish.

In Loving Memory
on the Tenth Death Anniversary of
Our Dearly Beloved

VIRGILIO D. TINGZON, Sr.

15 December 1917 - 24 April 1991

Holy Masses are being offered at the following churches today:

Catherine of Siena Church, Vallejo, California
Divine Child Parish Church, Dearborn, Michigan
Our Lady of Fatima Parish, Philam Village, Las Piñas
St. Paul the Apostle Church, Mo. Ignacia Street, Quezon City
Christ the King Church, E. Rodriguez Avenue, Quezon City
Our Lady of Miraculous Medal Church, Fernando Air Base, Lipa City

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OBITUARIES

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for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Monday to Sunday
12:00 noon
Day before publication

Message of Thanks

from the family of the late

ADOLFO R. RIVA

*of Oas, Albay and Cubao, Quezon City
who peacefully joined his Creator
on March 16, 2001 at the age of 75.*

We wish to convey our sincerest gratitude and heartfelt appreciation to our relatives, friends, and all those who sent flowers, donations, sympathy cards, offered Masses and prayers, called and e-mailed from abroad, attended the funeral rites, helped and comforted us in so many ways during our time of bereavement.

May God grant you abundant blessings for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

Thank you very much.

Wife, **Liling**, children **Ruby Ann** and **Manny Gervasio**, **Rona Marie**, **Roberto Jesus** and **Mary Ann Alesna**; grandchildren **Lianne**, **Dino**, **Jason**, **Teddy**, **Gigi**, **Roald**, **Reggie**, **Raiza**, **Gio** and **Pao**.

JUANITO CHAN MANUBAY, M.D.

*Died in the Grace of our Lord
on April 22, 2001 at the age of 72.*

His wife **Cely**; his children **Anthony**, **Teresita**, **Mark**, **Cieri** and **Rocelle**; brothers and sisters, nephews and nieces, relatives and friends request all pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His cremated remains lie in state at the Capilla de San Francisco of Santuario De San Antonio Parish, McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City.

Funeral Mass will be at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 25, 2001 at the Capilla De San Francisco.

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*"Think of her as living
in the hearts of those she touched
for nothing loved is ever lost
and she was loved so much."*

**In Loving Memory
on the First Death Anniversary of**

ESTELITA "TILING" SAMBRANO MONZON

Who died in the grace of our Lord last April 25, 2000.

Holy Masses will be offered tomorrow, Wednesday, April 25, 2001, at the following:

Mary the Queen Parish .... **7:00 AM**
San Juan, Metro Manila

St. Alphonsus Mary De Liguori .... **7:00 AM**
Magallanes Village, Makati City **6:00 PM**

St. John Bosco Parish .... **7:30 AM**
Arnaiz Street, Makati City **6:00 PM**

Manuel L. Quezon University Chapel .... **11:00 AM**
Monzon Hall, R. Hidalgo Street, Manila

Sanctuario De San Antonio .... **12:15 NN**
Forbes Park, Makati City **6:00 PM**

Cardinal Santos Hospital .... **5:15 PM**
Wilson Street, Greenhills, San Juan

Christ the King .... **6:00 PM**
Green Meadows, Quezon City

Carmel Shrine .... **6:00 PM**
Doña J. Rodriguez, New Manila, Quezon City

Sanctuario De San Jose .... **6:15 PM**
Greenhills, San Juan

Our Lady of EDSA Shrine .... **7:00 PM**
Ortigas Center, Pasig City

Her family kindly requests all readers to remember her in their prayers.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

INQUIRER OBITUARIES

• DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT • MESSAGE OF THANKS •
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For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747 8599, 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1780
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Tel. 732-0309, 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch -
A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu
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COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City
Tels. 231-0721; 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City
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Tels. 740-2683, 781-3705, 781-3688, 413-9400; 715-5594
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(047) 222-4512, (047) 224-2014
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Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247
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13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City;
Tels. 646-1725; 646-1730
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Tels. 641-7909, 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros, Metro Manila
Tels. 642-3010, 633-3602
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Calsadang Bago, Pateros, Metro Manila
Tels. 642-6161 to 62

HOLY TRINITY MEMORIAL CHAPELS
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Tel. 434-3258
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Tels. 711-6931 to 35, 732-4795
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143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City;
Tels. 749-3806 to 11
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City
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SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
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Magallanes Village, Makati City
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VERONICA MEMORIAL HOMES
Official NBI Morgue 517-A Arnaiz St., Pasay City
Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846; 843-1801; 845-4836

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS: ❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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- **Apolinario Mabini High School**
- **Plaridel High School**
- **Juan Sumulong High School**

mourn the passing of

PAULINO F. CAYCO

Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Arellano University
Co-Chairman, Arellano Law Foundation
Chairman, Malabon Educational Institution

who joined his Creator on April 21, 2001 at the age of 74.

His cremated remains lie in state at the Mount Carmel Church,
Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City

Interment will be on April 25, 2001 at the Mount Carmel Church
after the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

We request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

DR. ENRICO T. HERNANDEZ, D.M.D.

Of Pineda, Pasig City

Passed away in San Diego, California, U.S.A.
last April 9, 2001 at the age of 45.

His bereaved mother **Nina**; wife **Glenda**; brothers **Antonio, Sergio, Manuel, Wenceslao Jr., Luis, Augusto, Eliseo**, and **Ferdinand**; sisters **Consolacion, Emilia** and **Maria**; in-laws and relatives request the pious readers/friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Berge Roberth Mortuary, San Diego, California, U.S.A.

Interment will be on April 28, 2001 at the El Camino Real Memorial Park, San Diego, California, U.S.A.

Our Dearly Beloved

Engr. ALFREDO (BOY) C. PANGILINAN Jr.

Peacefully joined our Lord on April 17, 2001 at the age of 43.

His loving wife **JESSILEE** (Jing), **ALFREDO Sr.** (†); bereaved mother **NENA**; sisters **MELVA, FE** (Choie), **EDNA, CYNTHIA** (Bing), **AMELIA** (Mely), **ELIZA** (Baby); and brother **RENATO** (Bong); brothers-in-law **ROMY, EDGAR, ART, LOREN, MANNY**; and sister-in-law **TELYN**; nieces and nephews, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at La Merced Memorial Homes and will be laid to rest at Forest Lake, Tumaga, Zamboanga City.

Interment will be on April 26, 2001 at 8:00 o'clock in the morning.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

Always caring... INQUIRER OBITUARIES
Call us at 897-2535

> *"Weep ye not for the dead, neither bemoan him;*
> *But weep sore for him that goeth away; for*
> *he shall return no more, nor see his native country."*
> Jeremiah 22:10

PAULINO F. CAYCO

Peacefully joined his Creator
on April 21, 2001
at the age of 74.

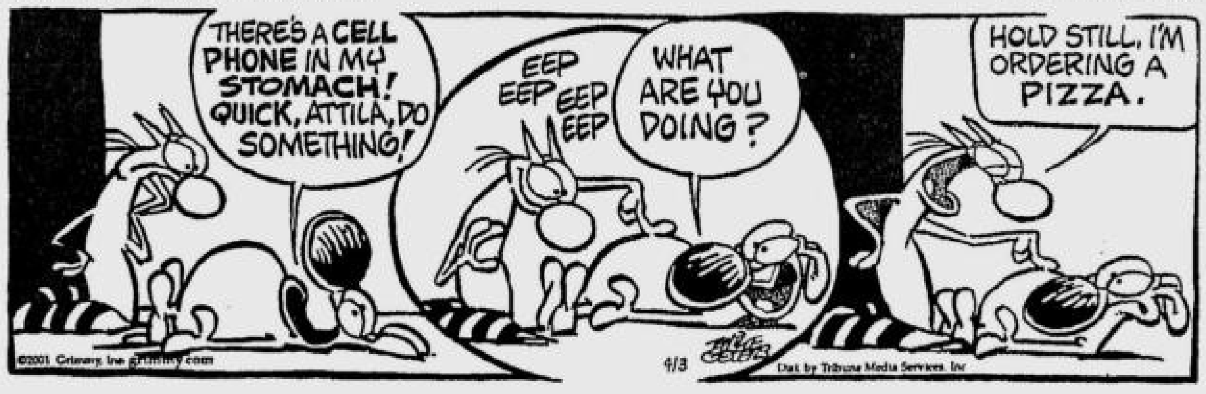
His loving wife **Estela**; children **Koko** and Pinky, **Marie**, **Alma** and Manny Curato, **Fe** and Chito Reodica, **Val** and Malou, **Tony** and Mita; and grandchildren, request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His cremated remains lie in state at the Mount Carmel Church, Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be on April 25, 2001 at the Mount Carmel Church after the 11:00 AM Mass.

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


THERE'S A CELL PHONE IN MY STOMACH! QUICK, ATTILA, DO SOMETHING!
EEP EEP EEP EEP
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HOLD STILL, I'M ORDERING A PIZZA.
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4/3
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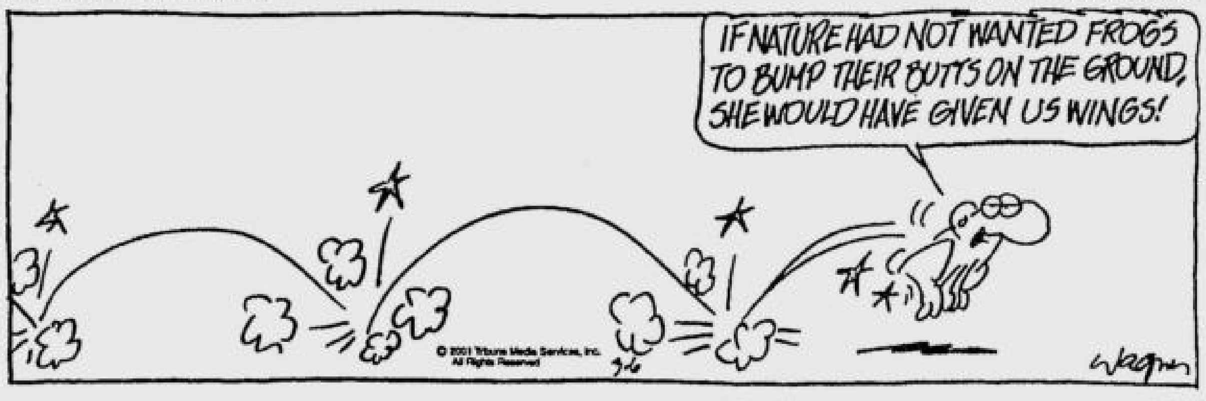
ANIMAL CRACKER

BY FRED WAGNER


IF NATURE HAD NOT WANTED FROGS TO BUMP THEIR BUTTS ON THE GROUND, SHE WOULD HAVE GIVEN US WINGS!
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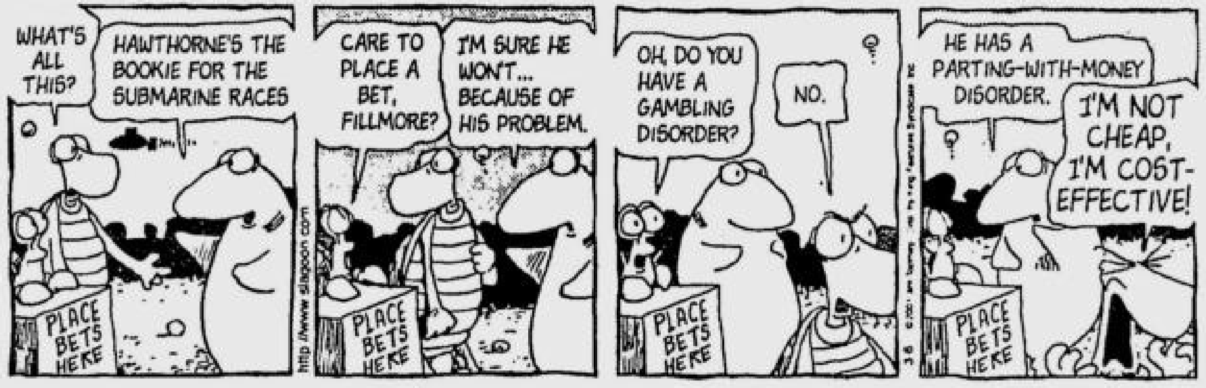
3-6
Wagner

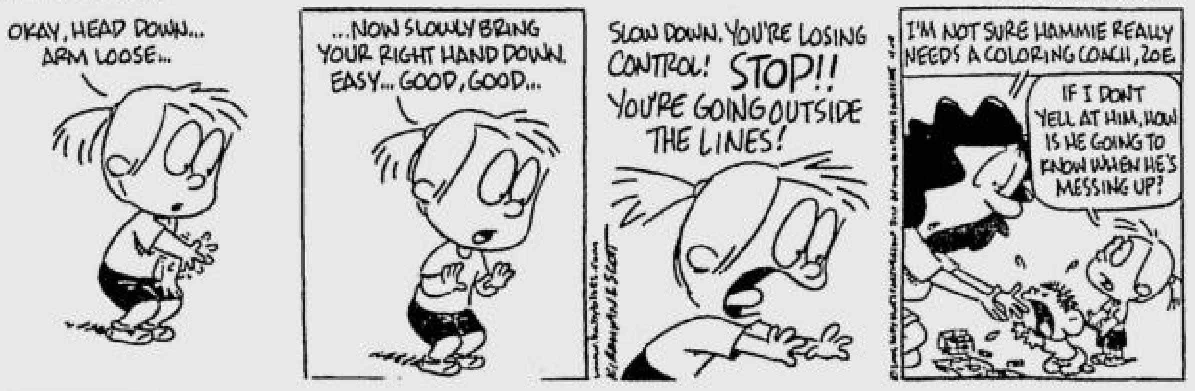
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WHAT'S ALL THIS?
HAWTHORNE'S THE BOOKIE FOR THE SUBMARINE RACES
PLACE BETS HERE
CARE TO PLACE A BET, FILLMORE?
I'M SURE HE WON'T... BECAUSE OF HIS PROBLEM.
OH, DO YOU HAVE A GAMBLING DISORDER?
NO.
HE HAS A PARTING-WITH-MONEY DISORDER.
I'M NOT CHEAP, I'M COST-EFFECTIVE!
http://www.slagoon.com

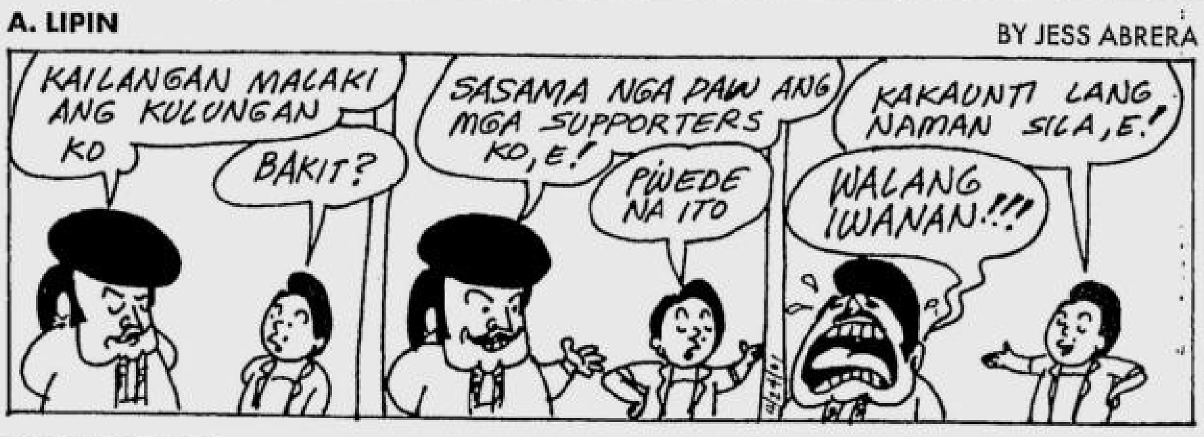
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


OKAY, HEAD DOWN... ARM LOOSE...
...NOW SLOWLY BRING YOUR RIGHT HAND DOWN. EASY... GOOD, GOOD...
SLOW DOWN. YOU'RE LOSING CONTROL! STOP!! YOU'RE GOING OUTSIDE THE LINES!
I'M NOT SURE HAMMIE REALLY NEEDS A COLORING COACH, ZOE.
IF I DON'T YELL AT HIM, HOW IS HE GOING TO KNOW WHEN HE'S MESSING UP?

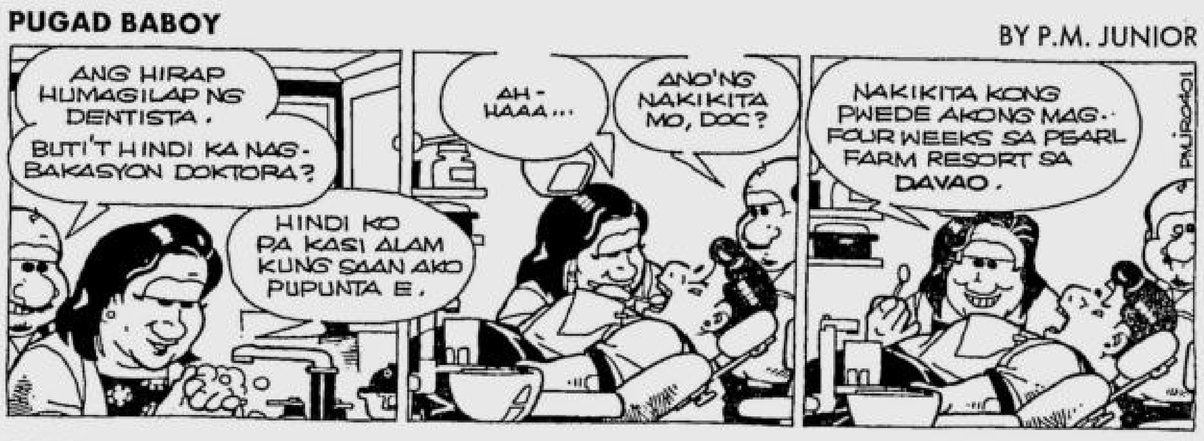
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


KAILANGAN MALAKI ANG KULUNGAN KO
BAKIT?
SASAMA NGA DAW ANG MGA SUPPORTERS KO, E!
PWEDE NA ITO
KAKAUNTI LANG NAMAN SILA, E!
WALANG IWANAN!!!

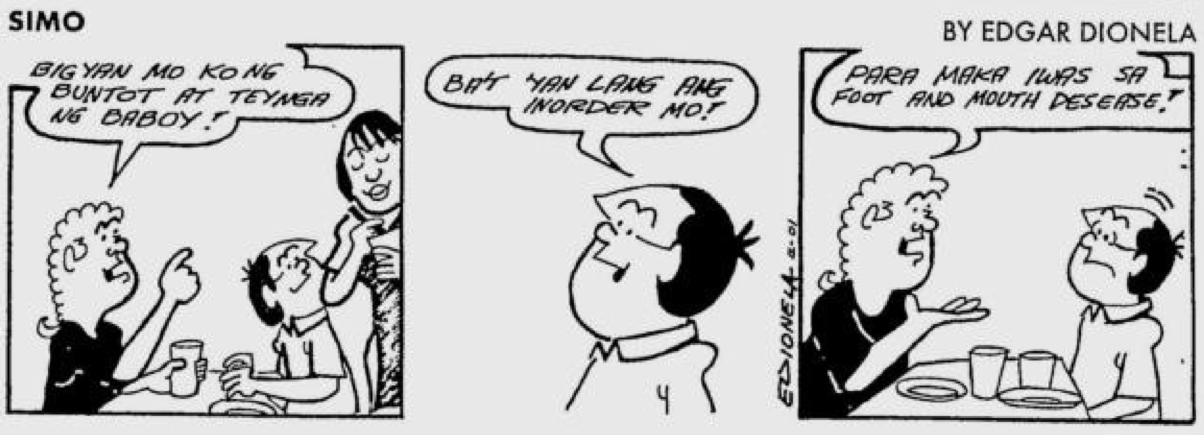
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANG HIRAP HUMAGILAP NG DENTISTA.
BUTI'T HINDI KA NAG-BAKASYON DOKTORA?
HINDI KO PA KASI ALAM KUNG SAAN AKO PUPUNTA E.
AH-HAAA...
ANO'NG NAKIKITA MO, DOC?
NAKIKITA KONG PWEDE AKONG MAG-FOUR WEEKS SA PEARL FARM RESORT SA DAVAO.
PMJR0401

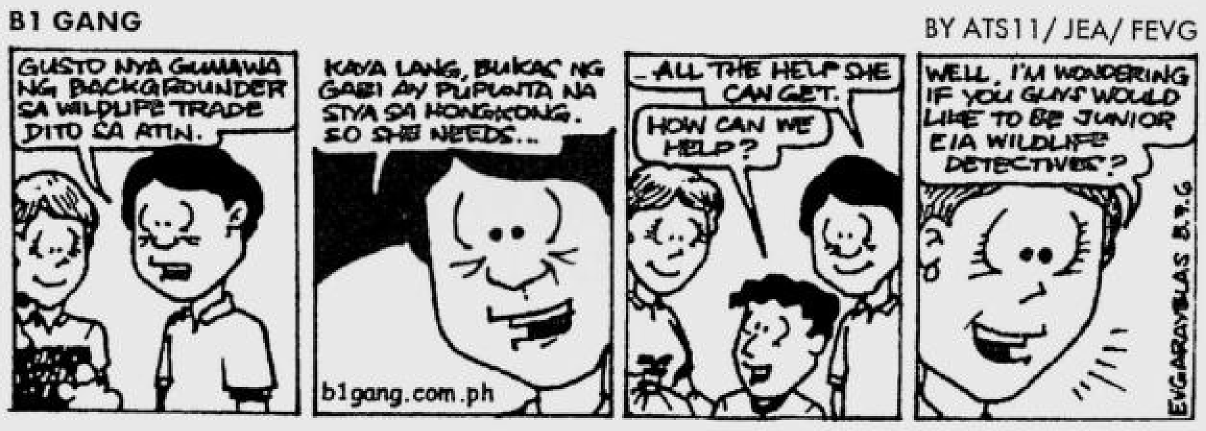
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


BIGYAN MO KONG BUNTOT AT TEYNGA NG BABOY!
BA'T YAN LANG ANG INORDER MO?
PARA MAKA IWAS SA FOOT AND MOUTH DESEASE!
EDIONELA

B1 GANG

BY ATS11/ JEA/ FEVG


GUSTO NYA GUMAWA NG BACKGROUNDER SA WILDLIFE TRADE DITO SA ATIN.
KAYA LANG, BUKAS NG GABI AY PUPUNTA NA SIYA SA HONGKONG. SO SHE NEEDS...
...ALL THE HELP SHE CAN GET.
HOW CAN WE HELP?
WELL, I'M WONDERING IF YOU GUYS WOULD LIKE TO BE JUNIOR EIA WILDLIFE DETECTIVES?
b1gang.com.ph
EVGARAYBLAS

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Barbra Streisand, Shirley MacLaine, Stanley Kauffman, Eric Bogosian, Sue Grafton
Happy Birthday: You may want to stand your ground this year, but be prepared to miss out on some opportunities if you are too rigid. You will have to be receptive to others' ideas. Collaboration will be the key to success. The more you are willing to bend, the better the outcome. Be prepared to contribute to the larger picture instead of trying to go it alone. Your numbers: 5, 19, 27, 33, 39, 40

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Help those who can't help themselves. You may want to get involved in investments. Be careful that you don't overextend yourself. Romantic partners will be most accommodating.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Concentrate on creative hobbies. Children will play an important role in your life. Take the time to talk to long-lost friends. You need the intellectual connection to individuals with similar interests.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You will change your mind a dozen times. Don't let your emotions get the better of you. Your discipline can bring accomplishments. Try not to jump to conclusions when dealing with your lover.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Travel will stimulate your imagination. Enjoy the company of interesting individuals who can offer the intellectual conversation you need. Your mind is open to new ideas.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Don' expect to get something for nothing. You can bet that some of the promises made will not come to fruition. Don' be too eager to put your cash on the table.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Mix business with pleasure; invite colleagues out after hours. Financial ventures should be lucrative if you've taken care of all the angles yourself. You can learn if you observe others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You'll have to be careful where legal documents are concerned. Get a professional to look things over before you sign on the dotted line. It's better to be safe than sorry.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't let anyone put limitations or demands on your time. Older relatives may pose a problem. Money matters will be unstable. Don't lend or borrow. Put your time to good use: Make love, not war.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Moneymaking deals will come through property investments. Don't be afraid to put some cash into beautifying your home. Hidden assets will turn out to be more valuable than you thought.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Social events that involve close friends or children should be on your agenda. Opportunities to expand your horizons will come through connections you have with foreigners.

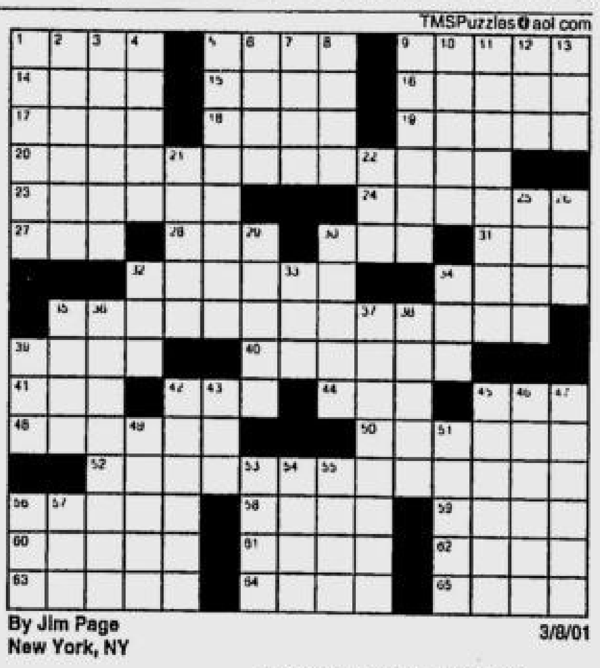
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You'll have to include the whole family in the home-improvement projects that you want to make. The changes will help to lift your spirits and add more comfort for everyone concerned.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You'll impress others with your insight and empathy. Help relatives with personal problems that they can't face alone. Your help will be appreciated.

Birthday Baby: You are creative, opportunistic and eager to please. You have the ability to start, develop and finish anything you pursue. You are dedicated, sometimes difficult but always dependable.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Jim Page
New York, NY

3/8/01

ACROSS
1 Mr. Flintstone
5 Voila!
9 Creative movement of the '60s
14 Son of Leah
15 Israeli statesman Abba
16 U.S. Grant's opposite number
17 Kiln
18 Tenant's expense
19 Perry's Street
20 Best fight tickets
23 That's for sure!
24 Cravat holder
27 Susan of "L.A. Law"
28 Bloke
30 Kitchen utensil
31 Dander
32 More encrusted
34 Kind of rock or rain
35 Sofa beds
39 Deep, slimy soil
40 Dixon and Reed
41 Actor Wallach
42 Actress West
44 Make a blunder
45 Luau dish
48 Jewelers' glasses
50 Insert smoothly
52 Farmers' perches
56 River horse, for short
58 Lion's fare
59 Shell rival
60 Was sore
61 Beep on a beeper
62 Money of Iran
63 Disorderly
64 Iditarod entry
65 In one's right mind

DOWN
1 Ruddy
2 Use abusive language
3 Uniformly
4 Ringing sounds
5 Japanese sauce
6 Sacked out
7 Laertes or Hamlet, e.g.
8 Picnic crawlers
9 Sanctify
10 Golfer Calvin
11 Pimento
12 Member of the fam.
13 Pekoe, e.g.
21 Three-bean or Waldorf
22 Zeta follower
25 Writer Murdoch
26 "Waking — Devine"
29 Semiconductor
30 Recumbent
32 Pool tool?
33 "Foucault's Pendulum" author
34 Sounds of delight
35 Farm tower
36 Wins
37 Lacking sleep
38 Jeweler's weight
39 Comic Brooks
42 Tune
43 Make a request
45 Bradley U. city
46 Tin Man's need
47 Boot cushion
49 Hollow tubes
51 Rides air currents
53 Little devils
54 Patricia of "Hud"
55 Type of plum
56 Overly dramatic actor
57 Cool down

PREVIOUS PUZZLE ANSWER

G	A	R	R		R	O	C	K	S		A	S	T	A
A	L	O	E		U	S	U	R	P		S	W	A	B
P	E	T	T	I	N	G	Z	O	O		C	I	T	E
S	C	O	R	N		O	C	C	I	P	I	T	A	L
			I	G	L	O	O		L	A	I	C		
C	O	D	E	R	E	D		V	E	T		H	I	S
O	L	I	V	I	A		A	I	D		J	E	E	P
S	I	D	E	D		T	O	E		B	U	R	R	O
T	O	G	S		M	A	L		M	E	M	O	I	R
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W	H	I	R	L	P	O	O	L		U	T	I	L	E
C	O	D	A		H	U	L	L	A	B	A	L	O	O
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U	F	O	S		S	H	I	P	S		T	A	S	S

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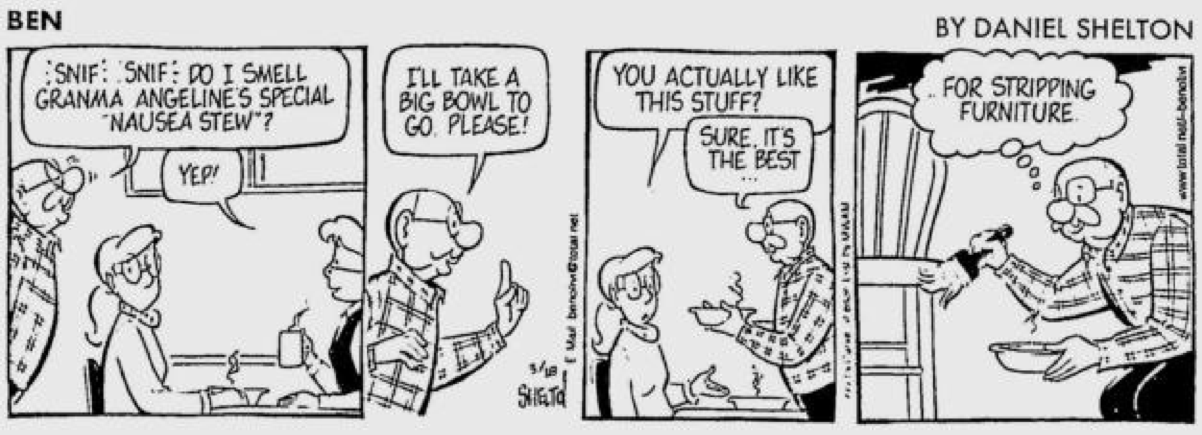
3/8/01

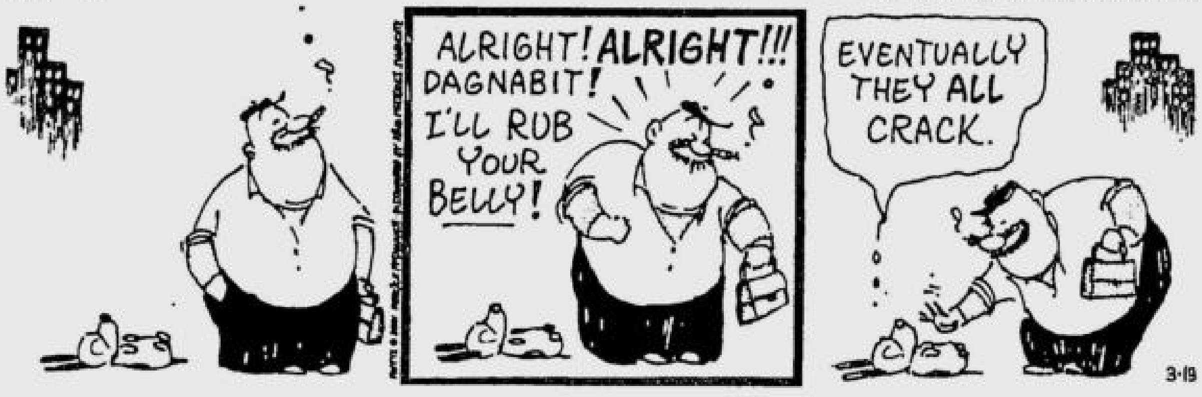
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


:SNIF: :SNIF: DO I SMELL GRANMA ANGELINE'S SPECIAL "NAUSEA STEW"?
YEP!
I'LL TAKE A BIG BOWL TO GO, PLEASE!
YOU ACTUALLY LIKE THIS STUFF?
SURE. IT'S THE BEST ...
... FOR STRIPPING FURNITURE.
SHELTON

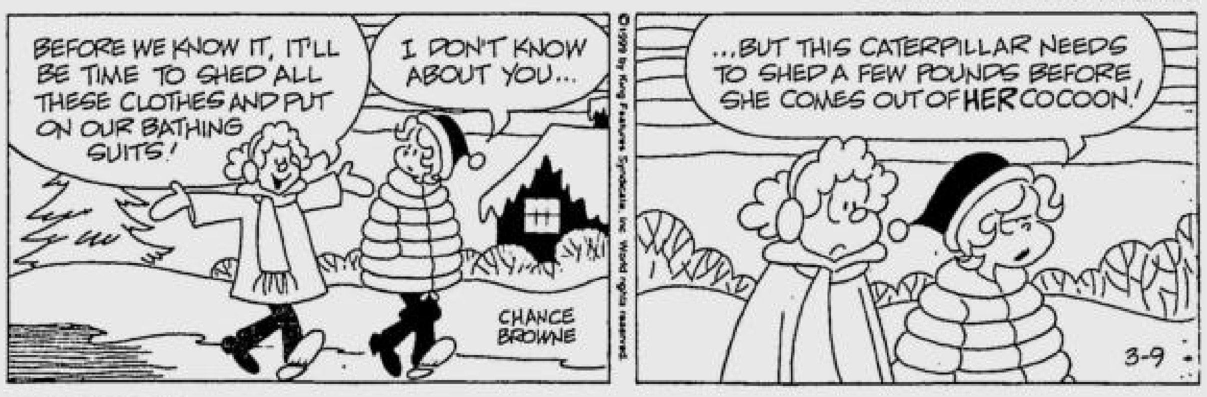
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


ALRIGHT! ALRIGHT!!! DAGNABIT! I'LL RUB YOUR BELLY!
EVENTUALLY THEY ALL CRACK.
3-19

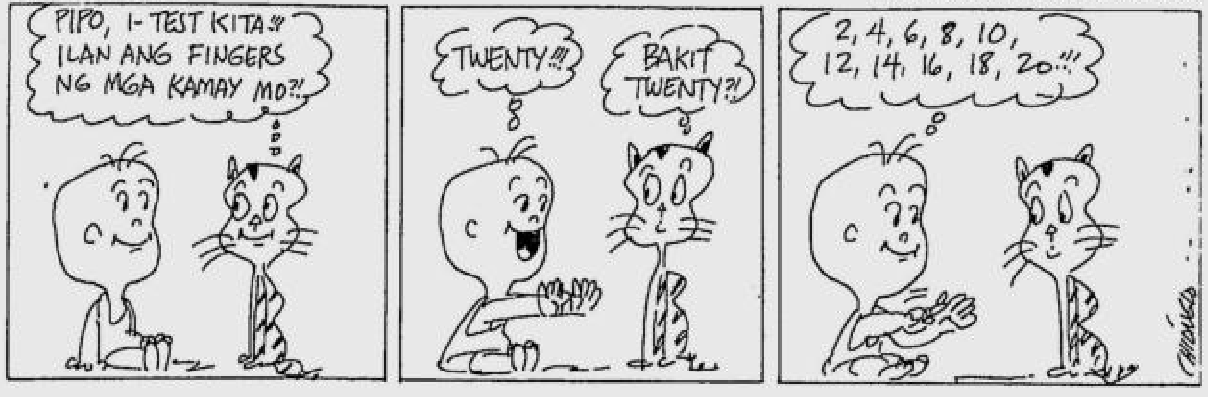
HI AND LOIS

BY BRIAN & GREG WALKER


BEFORE WE KNOW IT, IT'LL BE TIME TO SHED ALL THESE CLOTHES AND PUT ON OUR BATHING SUITS!
I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU...
...BUT THIS CATERPILLAR NEEDS TO SHED A FEW POUNDS BEFORE SHE COMES OUT OF HER COCOON!
CHANCE BROWNE
3-9

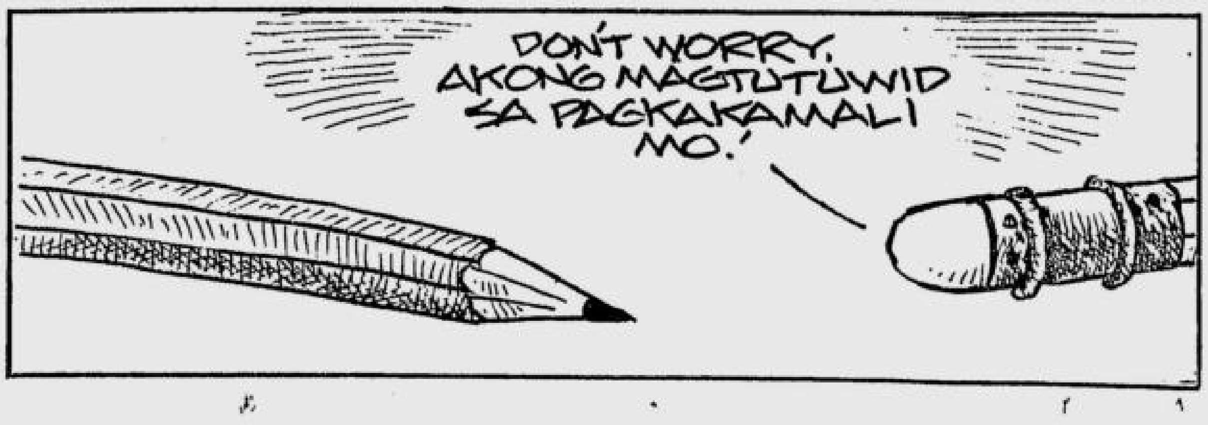
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


PIPO, I-TEST KITA!! ILAN ANG FINGERS NG MGA KAMAY MO?!
TWENTY!!!
BAKIT TWENTY?!
2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 20!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU & TATUM MILAMBILING


DON'T WORRY. AKONG MAGTUTUWID SA PAGKAKAMALI MO.

Metropolitan Park shapes central part of Blvd 2000

MANILA Bay—from the Cultural Center of the Philippines to Cavite—has become a new center of property development that will change the skyline of 1,500 hectares of reclaimed land.

The project is now known as Boulevard 2000 after it was assigned to the Public Estates Authority in 1995. The concept, though, started in 1975 with the construction of new roads that linked Manila to Cavite.

Actually, a new town is being planned to take shape along this area of Manila Bay. Somewhere at the center of this strip of land that stretches from the CCP to the Coastal Road in the Las Piñas area is what planners identify as the "Commercial Business Park Island A" (CBP-IA) where the construction activity is changing the skyline of Manila Bay. There, two large structures are fully in operation—the Toyota Manila Bay Showroom in the Metropolitan Park project, and the Church of the Shrine of Jesus in the SM Property area. The Toyota showroom has been in operation since August 2000, while the church has been holding regular services since last year.

BAY garden

Meanwhile, construction work is now focused on completing a five-tower residential condominium project in the Metropolitan Park. This is the Bay Gardens residential condo that just topped off its second tower after successfully launching the model units in its first tower.

Master-planned dev't

Metropolitan Park is a master-planned property development venture of the Metrobank Group of Companies initiated by Federal Homes Inc. The development of the 40-hectare Metropolitan Park is a joint venture with Mitsui & Co. Ltd. of Japan.

The fast pace of development in Metropolitan Park is dictated by market demand created by the high quality features of a luxury project located in an area within the business center of Manila and very close to the financial district of Makati and the premiere residential communities of Pasay.

Its residential condo, Bay Gardens, offers luxurious one-, two- and three-bedroom as well as penthouse units with the magnificent Manila Bay as a view and a sprawling resort-type landscape complete with a free-form swimming pool as a garden. Its model units, which are open for viewing on appointment, were designed by well-respected names in the industry—Marlon Coscolluela, Cholet Antonio, Gozar Planners and Proyekto Designs.

Metropolitan Park's development directions have included a hospital, community and cultural centers and other residential high rises. The park has underground cables, wide-open spaces and a fully landscaped environment. A bridge will connect Metropolitan Park to the CCP, providing another access to Roxas Boulevard.

Signs of dev't work

A few corners away from the Metropolitan Park gate are the signs of development work being undertaken by SM Property. An impressive gothic-structure Catholic church known as the Shrine of Jesus has already gathered a community of churchgoers with regular Masses celebrated daily. The Mall of Asia, which will comprise 500,000 square meters of commercial space, will be undertaken by Henry Sy Sr. and the SM Group of Companies. It will be part of a huge mid-use development comprising four hotels, entertainment and leisure complex.

The ambitious Boulevard 2000 project started as a concept in 1993 when the pressures of urbanization were being felt through the traffic congestion on Roxas Boulevard leading to the municipalities of Parañaque and Las Piñas. A transportation plan started the Manila-Cavite Coastal Road, followed by the plan to extend R-1, Manila's first radial road toward Zapote in Bacoor, Cavite. The new road system formed the spine of the reclaimed strip of land that became Boulevard 2000 project, formerly known as the Manila-Cavite Coastal Road and Reclamation Project when it started in 1974.

The project was later known simply as Boulevard 2000 and had undergone many changes.

THE CREBA STORY

Continuing advocacy for homeless families

BY CHARLIE V. GOYAREB

ANY true account of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Association, or Creba, cannot be but the story of a continuing advocacy for the nation's millions of homeless families. Creba has been on the home-building scene since more than 27 years ago, long before public activism or militancy became the fashion of the day.

Recognized as the umbrella organization of the real estate and housing industry, Creba has followed a tradition of pursuing to the limit that which benefits the greater interest of the greatest number. Thus, it has constantly worked to ensure that the industry serves as an effective tool in alleviating the plight of the homeless. This way, Creba sees to it that the industry fulfills its vital role in economic development and nation-building. Is this being elitist?

Since its founding in October 1973, Creba has been a major partner of government in formulating laws, policies, programs and rules in housing development focused mainly on how the housing beneficiaries—middle-income, low-income and underprivileged Filipino families—can be assisted in getting their own homes. Creba, certainly, is much more real than any bogus group.

GOYAREB

In pursuing its mission, Creba has remained steadfast in its convictions and vocal, when exigencies so demand, against acts by any public official, however overbearing, highly placed and vindictive, or any agency, however powerful, that would jeopardize not only the industry's honest efforts to serve, but more important, the lot of homeless beneficiaries it is committed to help. Could anyone truly call that insecurity?

Why is it in the party-list election? To enable it to continue pushing its advocacy for the homeless families, Creba has decided to join the party-list system election on May 14. It believes that with direct representation in Congress, not really for itself, but for the millions of Filipinos striving to acquire their own homes, it may be more effective and successful in making good on its commitment to assist the homeless.

Its track record of continuing advocacy that led to the creation of institutions and processes for the benefit of homebuilding and the homeless; and its current advocacy for long-term approaches, including the development of a sustainable, stable finance system and a more aggressive government housing program under a Department of Housing—all these testify to the sincerity, capability and commitment of Creba.

It is, therefore, understandably proud of its public record which no new, bogus or activist group can ignore or successfully discredit. All its achievements and continuing passion for the welfare of the homeless, if for that alone, and no other, should merit public support for Creba in the election.

Creba encourages all sectors to help in attaining the one common goal, which is to help eliminate poverty. After all, no one can claim a monopoly in the task of assisting the less fortunate Filipinos. We extend our helping hand to other groups as we urge all to join our continuing crusade against homelessness and to fight for reforms in the housing industry. This is what we intend to continue to do even after the election, win or lose.

We call on the various sectors, in and out of Congress, to join Creba in pursuing with the same vigor and enthusiasm its resolve to eliminate homelessness and squatting in this country.

(Goyareb is the national president of the Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations)

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CONSTRUCTSCOPE

HCI backs construction show

HARDWARES Consolidated Inc. recently announced its support for the 9th Construction Show Cebu 2001 scheduled from June 1 to 4 at the SM City Cebu Trade Hall. HCI, which was established in 1962, is currently a 40-member organization composed of hardware firms based in Cebu. Organized by L.A. Ducut & Co. Inc. (Ladci), Construction Show Cebu is now on its ninth straight year, making it the longest-running construction and infrastructure trade event in the Visayan region. The memorandum of agreement was signed by Lilibeth D. Abais, managing director, Ladci, and Charles Kenneth C. Co., president, HCI. Interested parties may call up the Manila liaison office at telefax (02) 873-8202 or 873-1198; the Cebu office at (032) 232-3713 or 412-9463; or the Davao office at telefax (082) 227-4551.

Realty seminar, review

THE PASAY-MAKATI Realtors Board Inc. is holding its 51st Comprehensive Real Estate Seminar and Review for the upcoming licensing exam for real estate brokers to be given by the Department of Trade and Industry BTRCP on May 27 at the PSBA in Quezon City. Among the relevant topics included in the course are real estate brokerage practice; subdivision development; government home financing—Pag-Ibig; condominium concept; assessment and taxation of real property; legal requirements for real estate practice; and an intensive review with emphasis on past examinations. The real estate seminar and review will be held on May 4, 7, 9, 11, 16, 17, 18 and 21, from 6 to 9 p.m. (Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays), at the Asian Institute of Management, Paseo de Roxas, Makati City. All lecture materials will be provided. For more information, please call up the PMRB secretariat at 893-0569 and 893-0585 or e-mail: pmrb@broline.com. Registration is now ongoing at Unit 502-P Parking Building, Cityland 10, H.V. dela Costa Street, Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Roof . . . (From page B10)

called Elabana, an interlocking roof tile with fused color coat and boasts of reflective insulation.

If RFI has fiber cement shakes that are fire proof, CPAC Monier claims its Elabana is likewise fire resistant.

Roofing, however, is not just limited to cement roof tiles, clay roof tiles, asphalt roof shingles and fiber cement roof shakes. Roof made of sand-coated steel sheet, a material coated with a fine quart sand, is also known as simulated tile roofing.

A start up called Apex Roofing ventured on sand-coated steel roofs wherein it combined all the advantages of a steel sheet with the quality and the appearance of a traditional tile roof. It uses the Kami Plegel Roof from Sweden and the material is 5 kg per square meter as compared to roof tiles that weigh about 40 to 50 kg per sq. m.

Trisha Co, sales and marketing manager of Apex Roofing, said the company's roofing materials may not have the same insulation value. But one advantage of Apex's metal roofing is that it doesn't absorb water like clay or cement roof tiles do.

Co cited other advantages of Kami Terra Plegel over concrete or clay tiles:

- No breakage before installation, easier handling versus breakage that occurs even before installation.
- Cost savings on roof framing using light gauge steel structures.
- Faster installation versus installation on a per piece basis.
- The slope can go as low as 12 or 10 degrees with sealant against the tile's minimum slope of 15 degrees.

"In terms of labor and time, we have the advantage," she said.

Brisk sales at Fairway Lane

LESS than a month after its launch, Fairway Lane of the Crown Asia Home Series posted sales for 50 percent of its inventory of homes, making it one of the firm's fastest selling subdivisions.

"We view this remarkable achievement as our clients' approval of Crown Asia's entry into the affordable series featuring superbly designed and carefully constructed homes with that distinct Crown Asia touch of elegance at very light or easy-on-the-pocket prices," said Marcelino C. Mendoza, Crown Asia chief executive officer.

Located in the heart of the developing suburb of Novaliches in Caloocan City, Fairway Lane is offering two house models to choose from—Florence and Tuscany—inspired by houses in the Italian countryside. Each has a two-tone exterior paint finish, the houses use a modern steel rafter roofing system that is stronger and lasts longer than ordinary wood beam roof systems.

Tuscany has two variants, with different floor areas—45sqm and 60sqm—where both feature a lot area of 60 to 85 square meters and a loft. Each has a toilet and bath and provisions for a service area and an expanded kitchen with a minimum of three bedrooms.

Florence is a single firewall home with a loft, a 108- to 130-square-meter lot area and a floor area of 44 or 50 square meters. It has a toilet and bath, three bedrooms and has provisions for a carport, service area and an expanded kitchen. The lowest package starts at P719,000 or 10,000 per month with a 10- year in-house financing.

Fairway Lane residents can celebrate life amid wide, concrete roads, 24-hour security services, round-the-clock deep well water supply, an installed underground drainage system and the flexibility of a design that allows it to readily accept additional telephone and cable TV wires. The subdivision is near several schools and is also easy to reach through several routes. Public utility vehicles ply the immediate area providing access to SM Fairview and Robinsons Place Novaliches, and several public and private wet and dry markets for the shopping and marketing needs of residents.

For more details on Fairway Lane, call 726-0073 to 74 or visit the website www.crownasia.com.ph.

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	40 cm X 40 cm (16" X 16")	P64.00	6	P384.00
	45 cm X 45 cm (18" X 18")	P88.00	5	P440.00
WALL	20 cm X 20 cm (8" X 8")	P14.40	25	P360.00
	20 cm X 30 cm (8" X 12")	P22.40	16	P358.40
	25 cm X 40 cm (10" X 16")	P40.00	10	P400.00

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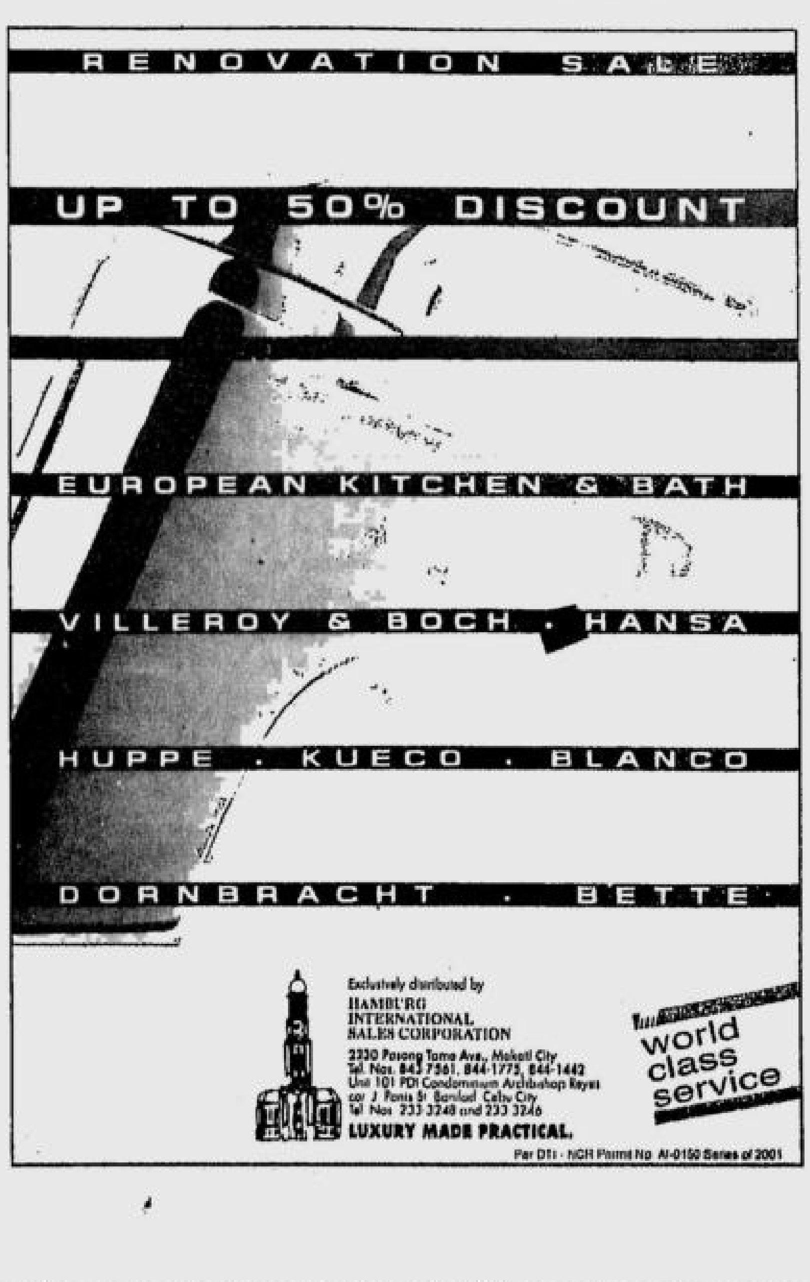
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Roof makers meet head-to-head in Manila exhibit

BY TESSA R. SALAZAR

FLAT roofs and Europe's Mediterranean designs will be more in demand this year, Filipino roof experts say.

As the most sought-after roof designs in affluent Filipino homes and among medium- level developers, these two designs would be the focus of roofing companies as they compete head-to-head for the nod of architects, homeowners, real estate firms and developers. This was especially evident during the April 20 showcase of roofing suppliers and manufacturers of the United Architects of the Philippines at the Manila Midtown Hotel.

THE CONTROVERSIAL vacation house of former President Estrada in Tagaytay Woodlands uses the fashionable flat roof tile that RFI calls Fiber Cement Shakes. The roof materials are fire resistant.

Riviera Filipina Inc. boasts of its machine press technology that could make compact and fine finishing concrete roof tiles. Free from holes or gaps, RFI concrete undergoes the machine press technology, and is said to be better than the old extruded technology. Its concrete roof tiles, for instance, could be used without the developers having to spend for the undersheathing. For 20 years, RFI has sourced materials here and abroad. These include cement roof tiles, clay roof tiles, asphalt roof shingles (considered as the most economical American roof material) and fiber cement roof shakes.

If medium-level developers and average homeowners prefer to trim down cost by eliminating the undersheathing, the opposite is true, however, for first-class homes and villages. RFI supplied the roofing tiles of the Zobel mansion in Forbes Park, the controversial vacation house of former President Estrada at Tagaytay Woodlands in Tagaytay Highlands, as well as 124 other posh units in the same village.

RFI sales manager Billy Balahadia said that if the value of the house is P20 million and above, it's not practical to remove the undersheathing regardless of the quality of the roofing tiles.

"The problem with removing the metal undersheathing is if the roof tile breaks, the water would go directly to the ceiling. It's not practical for those who have expensive homes," he said.

Competitor CPAC Monier Philippines, however, disagreed. Company officials said their products don't require metal undersheathings in all situations. Unlike RFI, CPAC Monier uses extruded concrete roof tile with fused color coat. CPAC Monier is a joint venture of Lafarge Group of France and the Siam Cement Group of Thailand. It recently established a plant in Sto. Tomas, Batangas. Apart from individual houses, it has also installed roofing tiles in projects of Ayala Land, Narel Homes, Laguna Properties Housing Inc., Sta. Lucia, Landco and Megaworld.

CPAC Monier project accounts officer Joel Gador said that CPAC's concrete roof tiles are not dependent on sub roofing. CPAC Monier's roof pitch is inclined 25 degrees and above for roof tiles without undersheathing. CPAC Monier said that its tiles are designed to interlock perfectly to prevent water from seeping through. The tiles, Gador claimed, are also designed with weather bars on the underside that prevent wind-driven rain from penetrating below the tile.

"We can match the cost of galvanized iron roofing and our wide range of colors wouldn't fade for 20 years," claimed Gador.

CPAC Monier's Mediterranean design version is

ROOF/p.B9

"Now, I want everything to last."

The same is true in Kris Aquino's choice of tiles. Her floor, all covered by Eurotiles, says it all—scratch-free even in the face of son Joshua's roughest toys.

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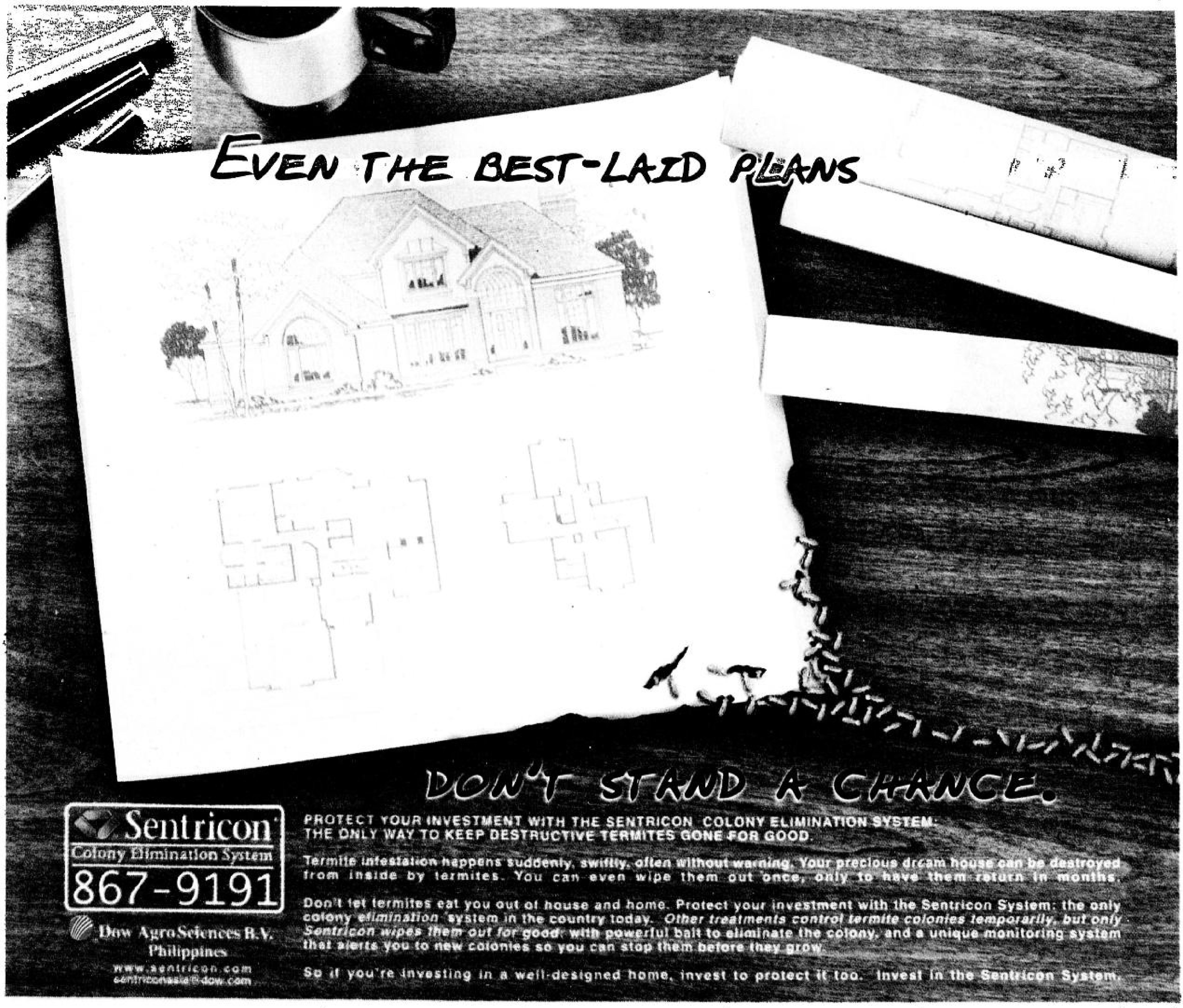

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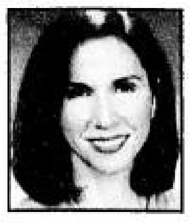
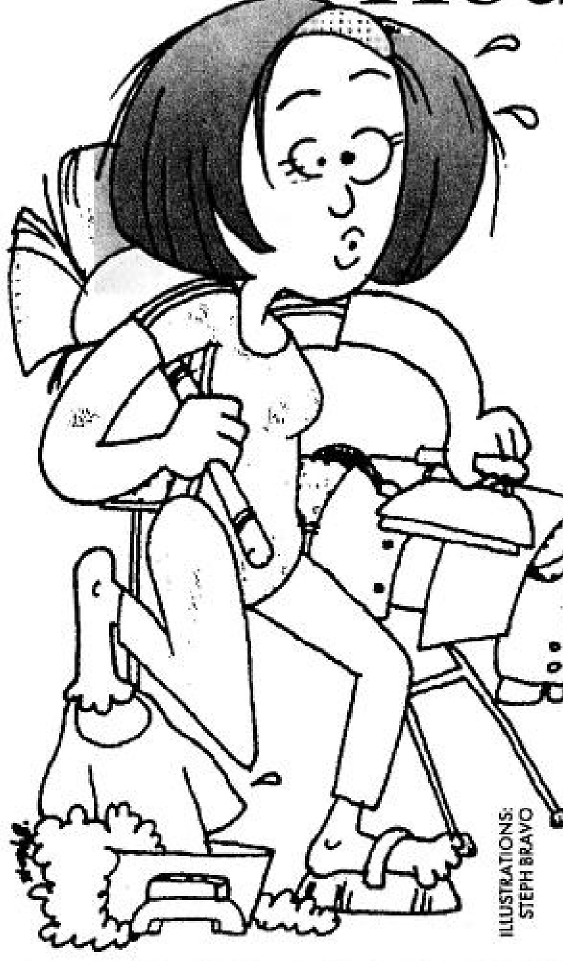
TUESDAY,
APRIL 24, 2001
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
LIFESTYLE Fitness
CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

Housework vs workout

WELL AND GOOD



Tina Aboitiz Juan



ILLUSTRATIONS: STEPH BRAVO

FROM A READER:

Recently I have had the bad luck of having a high turnover of household helpers and so there had been times when I had to do without, meaning I had to do housework on my own.

During these times, I would still go to the gym but I had to alter my whole schedule to accommodate housework. However, I soon found that doing housework, especially the tedious ones (cleaning, ironing and washing clothes) sometimes drained my strength to the point that I didn't have the energy left to do workouts. There was even a time that I did so much work in one day that when I went to the gym late in the afternoon, I almost passed out during the aerobics class.

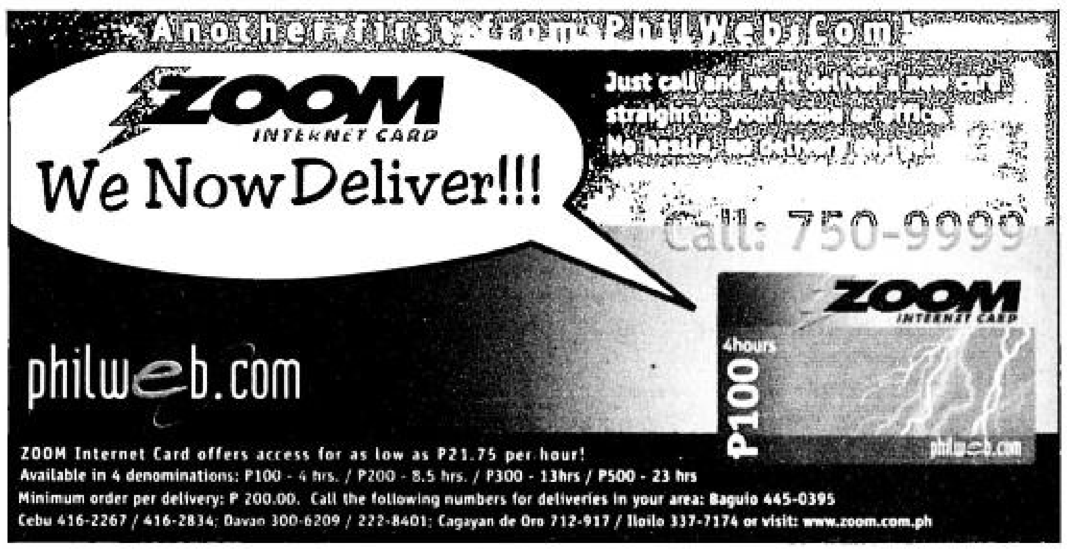
What I'd like to know is whether housework can somehow compensate for some workout time. Is it a good way to burn calories? Or if I have to do housework, what adjustments must I make regarding my workout schedule? How many calories does a particular kind of housework burn, if any? Is this useful or beneficial?

Physical challenge

Keeping a clean and organized house in the Philippines by your lonesome is definitely a physical challenge.

Because of the heat, our houses are designed to be wide open for cross ventilation. But along with the wind comes the dust. Just keeping your house dust-free is a never-ending job. And unless you have labor-saving appliances like a floor polisher, vacuum cleaner, clothes washer and dryer, heavy housework like scrubbing or polishing the floors the old-fashioned way can be every bit as physical as a vigorous workout. Here's an idea of just how many calories can be burned doing typical household chores. Figures are from the Calorie Control Council and are based on a 120-pound individual doing a specific

HOUSEWORK/ p.C2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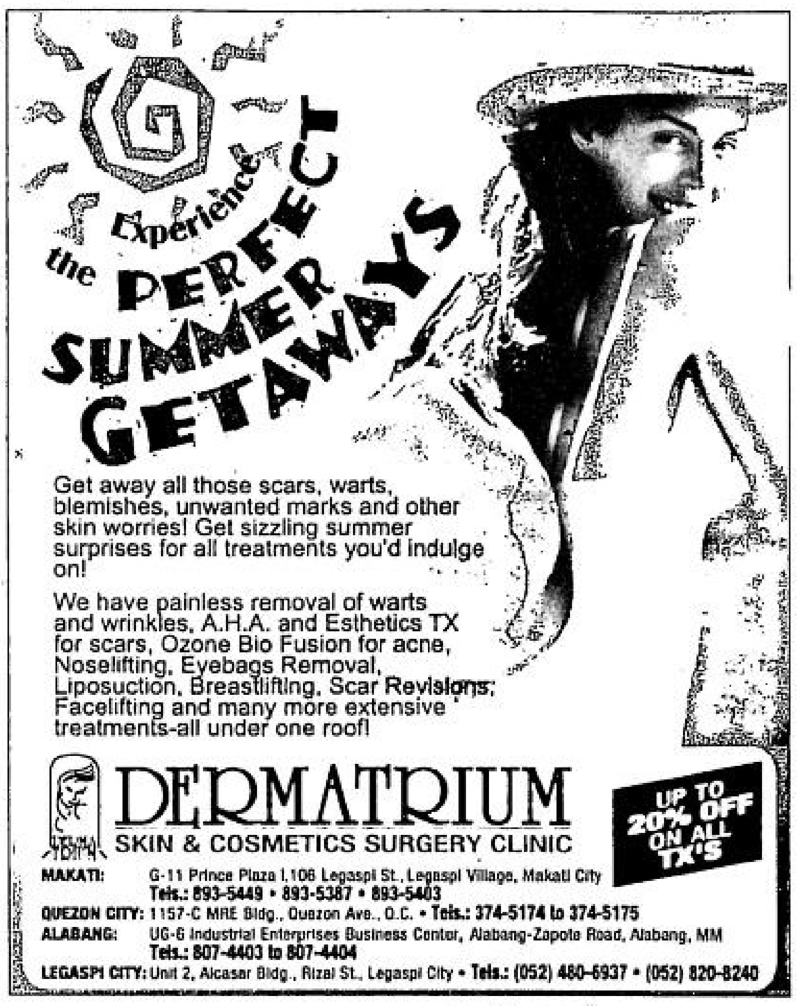
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Habang nasusugatan, lalong gumagaling sa laro ang iyong anak. Sa tulong ng New Band-Aid® Brand Clear Plastic Strips na nagbibigay ng **invisible na proteksiyon** sa sugat, magtiwala kang protektado ang iyong anak laban sa germs at infection. Ito ay **see-through** kaya malinis tingnan.
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Housework versus workout

Housework is a practical way to stay fit but not as balanced as a formal exercise program wherein you can tighten and stretch your muscles properly

(From page C1)

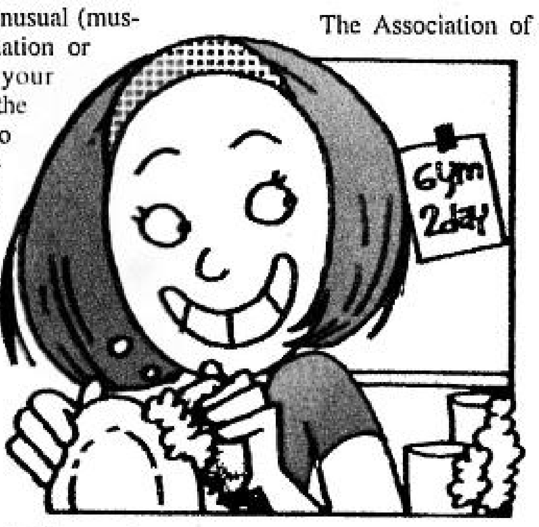
activity for 60 minutes. If you are lighter or heavier than 120 pounds, use the following calculation: Divide the number of calories burned in 60 minutes by 120 pounds. Multiply the answer by your weight in pounds. For example, divide 259 calories (calories burned during gardening) by 120 pounds. The answer is 2.16 calories per pound. Multiply that by 150 pounds. The answer is 324 calories.

Gardening, 259
Grocery shopping, 194
House cleaning, 346
Ironing, 122
Cleaning up after a party, 245
Rearranging furniture, 360
Stair climbing, 480
Washing dishes, 122
Washing the car, 245

Now compare those figures with sport or fitness-related activities.

Aerobics, 324
Badminton (singles), 511
Ballroom dancing, 245
Golf, 208
Jogging, 540
Taking a stroll, 165
Weightlifting, 302

No matter how fit you are, when your body is not used to a physical activity, there will be a period of adjustment.



The length of that period and whether or not you will feel anything unusual (muscle soreness, uncoordination or fatigue) depends on your current level of fitness, the similarity between the two activities, and how physically demanding the new activity is. It is worse when you are adding the new activity to your existing activities instead of replacing them. An example would be a runner taking up basketball for the first time. Even if the runner stopped running and concentrated only on the basketball, he would probably experience soreness and fatigue because different muscles and movement patterns are required for basketball as compared to running. However, if the runner continued his running sessions at the same time as learning how to play basketball a few times a week, the period of adjustment will be even more "painful." That's why the reader above felt like her strength was being drained.

Here's what she can do to survive having no household help and still continue to go to the gym. On the days that the household chores are heavy (meaning serious house cleaning like polishing the floors, cleaning windows, washing clothes, etc), she should stay away from the gym and just do stretching and abdominal exercises at home.

On the days that are light, she can go to the gym and still have enough energy so she doesn't pass out during the aerobics class. So, her weekly schedule could look something like this: Monday, Wednesday and Friday would be heavy-duty housework days, and Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday would be gym days.

Housework is a form of exercise because you use the major muscles of the body (arms, trunk and legs) and you can burn substantial amounts of calories. However, it is not as balanced as a formal exercise program wherein a fitness trainer makes sure that you tighten and stretch all your muscles properly. But housework can definitely be a practical way to stay fit while keeping your house clean.

* * *

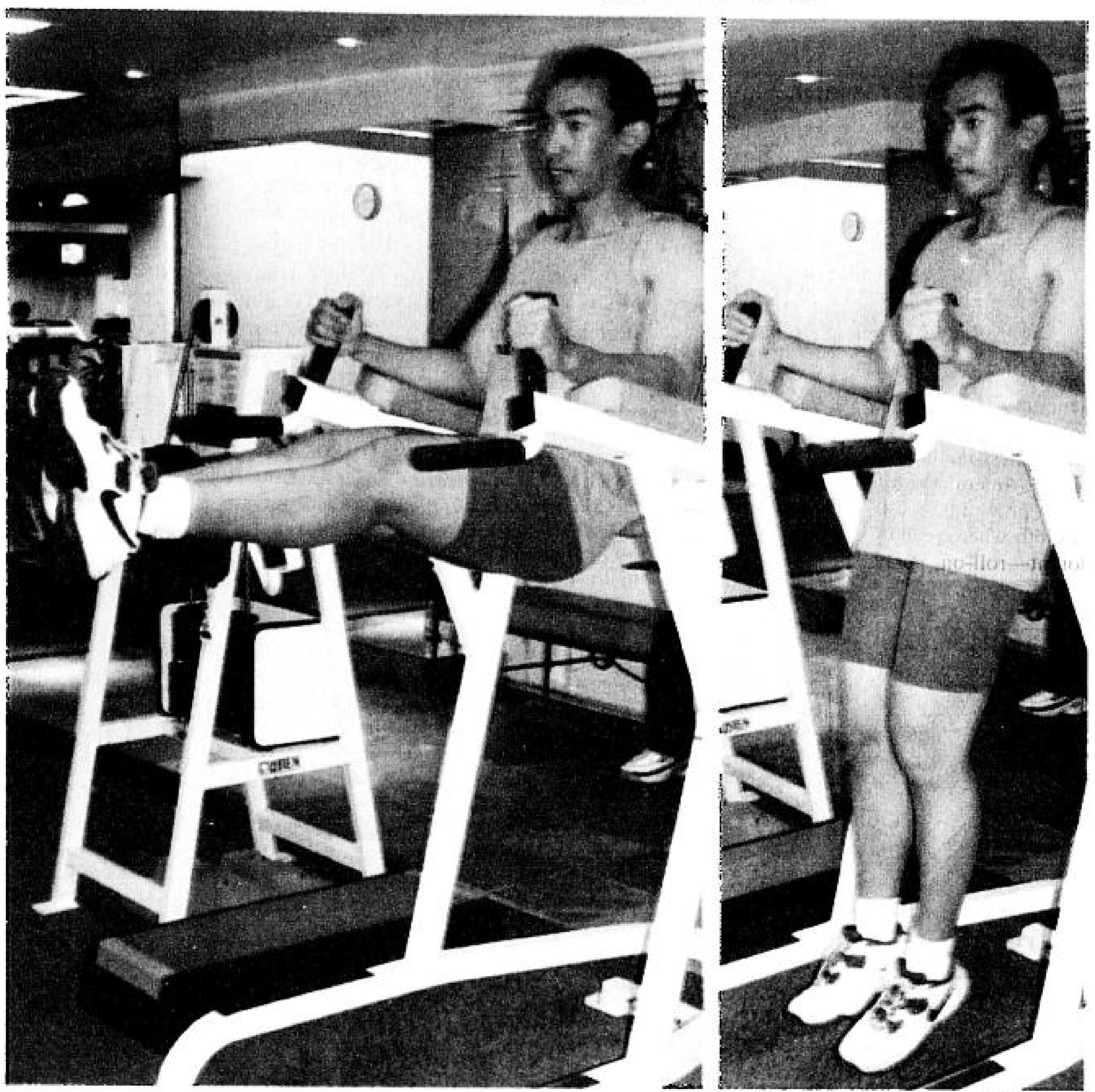
The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Phils. will hold a Fitness Seminar on April 28 at the Balay Kalinaw, UP Diliman Campus. Personal training: Abdominal Exercise Variations, Training for a Marathon, Post Knee Surgery Exercises, Sports Stretching for Martial Artists and Dancers. Aerobics: Latin Step, Kickboxing, Exercises for Hips, Buttocks and Thighs and High-Low Jazz. Fitness management: Taxation, Making Projections, Performance Evaluations, and Ethical Business Practices. Fitness enthusiasts: How Weightlifting Can Make You Stronger and Slimmer, Beginner's Weightlifting Program. Call Lorna at 842-0567.

* * *

The Sports Medicine Association of the Phils. will hold its 10th annual convention on April 28 at the Manila Midtown Hotel. The theme is "Promoting Healthy Lifestyle for the Older Adult." Call 521-9123, 303-1142 or e-mail sportsmedphil@yahoo.com.

For past articles or exercises, visit my website at www.tinajuanfitness.com

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK


PHOTOS BY CHITO VECINA

Hanging leg raise

Works the abdominals (as stabilizers) and the front of the thigh (quadriceps).

Equipment:
Gym "high chair"

Exercise technique:

1. Start with legs hanging straight down.
2. Tighten your abdominal muscles as you raise your legs to waist level in a slow and controlled manner.
3. Just as slowly, lower your legs down.

Performance tips:

1. Keep your spine neutral (straight with a natural curve in the lower back) during the raising and lowering phases of the exercise.
2. When lowering the legs, make sure to bring the legs straight down. Avoid swinging them backward because this will make you overarch your lower back.
3. Avoid hunching shoulders. Keep them relaxed and pressed down away from your ears.

Repetitions:
Do 12-15 repetitions. Rest. Do one more set if you want to.

Timeout with PBA

BASKETBALL enthusiasts of all ages, shapes, sizes need not go to the hardcourt to get close to their favorite PBA stars this summer. They are invited to visit "PBA Timeout at SM Supermalls," an interactive activity area ongoing at SM Megamall and SM Pampanga until April 29 and will go on to other SM malls.

Put together by the Philippine Basketball Association and its merchandising arm, PBA Properties, "PBA Timeout" has lined up fun and exciting activities for PBA fans. Life-size standees of hardcourt superstars from some of the 10 resident teams will be scattered around the exclusive PBA area.

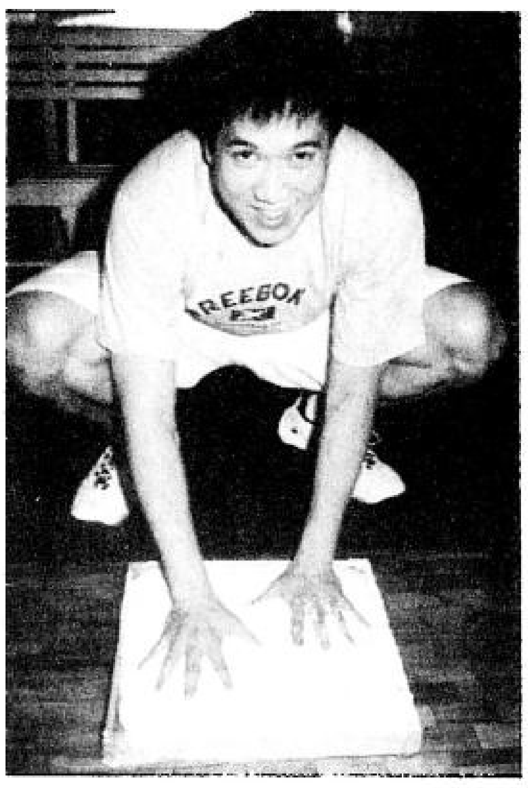
There is also a Walk of Fame feature à la Hollywood. Footprints and handprints of top PBA players will fill the area, encouraging visitors to compare shoe and hand sizes with the basketball stars. Also offered are a mini picture gallery, a giant inflatable basketball hoop and a mini basketball court where kids can test their three-point-shot abilities. There is a Showtime Area where all-time best PBA videos are played throughout the day, as well as an autograph-signing area. Purefoods TJ Hotdogs is giving away personalized Robee stickers for every proof of purchase of TJ's Hotdogs. There are regular raffles with PBA tickets as prizes.

Other activities include the PBA Look Alike contest where fans could send in their pictures as proof that they look like one of the PBA players. Awarding ceremonies will be held on the last day of the "PBA Timeout" tour. The winner will have the chance to meet his star lookalike. Customers will get the chance to vote for the top five smartest and cutest PBA players with a minimum purchase at SM. These top five will form PBA Dream Team Guwapo.

The "PBA Timeout" will be at SM Iloilo on April 28-29; SM Cebu, April 30-May 1; SM North Edsa on May 1-6; SM Bacoor, May 8-13; SM Fairview, May 15-20; SM Manila, May 22-31. Starting June 4-10, the venue of the event will again be at SM Megamall and SM North Edsa after its break from June 1-3.

Watch out for all new PBA merchandise from licensees at the PBA Toby's Dug Out Booth.

JUN Limpot of Barangay Ginebra


JERRY Codiñera of Mobiline

MAGICAL hand prints of Popcola's Johnny Abarrientos

Take Charge Doc!
Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.
MEDICard

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services?

Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA every Tuesday

TAKE CHARGE DOC, one of the many ways we encourage you to get the answers and allow you to make the best use of your medical card.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

In case of emergency, can we go to a non-accredited hospital? Are my expenses entitled for reimbursement? What are the requirements and how much time before release of reimbursement?

A member may go to a non-accredited hospital in cases of emergency. However, only 80% of the approved charges may be reimbursed for accounts with standard benefits. Documents such as original official receipts, charge slips, statement of accounts, medical/clinical/surgical reports of hospitalization and even police report *(for accidents and medico-legal cases)* should be submitted immediately after discharge for immediate processing. Reimbursement may then be released within 2 weeks from receipt of all requirements.

Meet your MEDICard Team

Dr. Mario R. Melendres is one of MEDICard's accredited doctors ever since it started its operations in 1986. He has been with us for 14 years already and he's looking forward to more years of fruitful partnership. Doc Mario is a graduate of The University of Santo Tomas. He is a specialist in Internal / Family Medicine thus a great majority of his time is spent in the hospital seeing young and adult patients. However, Sundays are devoted to the family. He is married to Dr. Lourdes Tan – Melendres, who also happens to be MEDICard's coordinator in San Juan De Dios. Doc Mario's hobbies include bowling and basketball. For consultations, you can visit him at Medical City, Rm. 105, Mon. to Fri. 2PM-5 PM or you can also visit him at San Juan De Dios Hospital, Wed. to Sat 9AM – 12NN

Dr. Elizabeth Angelica Lapid – Roasa, earned her degree as Doctor of Medicine in the University of Santo Tomas. She later specialized in Internal Medicine focusing in kidney diseases. She is married to Mr. Francis V. Roasa and is a mother to three beautiful kids. When she's less busy with work, she loves to read and watch movies or sometimes experiment in the kitchen with a new recipe. Her clinic is located at Rm 5009, Medical Arts Bldg, (beside UST Hosp.) Clinic hrs are M – S except Fri. 11- 1PM

Dr. Orlando Deomampo has been with MEDICard for the last 5 years. He earned his degree in Medicine at the De La Salle University and later chose Surgery as his line of specialty. Presently, he is very popular among MEDICard clients because of his compassionate nature. When you don't see him in the hospital, you can find him in the fairways displaying his expertise in golf. He is married to Ms. Irene Deomampo and they have 2 children. For consultations, you can go to Med. Center Manila, M – S 10AM – 1 PM or at Alabang Medical Clinic, every T & TH – 5pm – 7pm

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. **BE HEARD AND BE READ.** You can write **DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA** at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. HV Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. For membership inquiries, please call 810-2399. Look for Ms. Joy Mendiola / Ms. Milen Ruiz. *Log on to www.medicardphils.com*

MEDICard is the first and only HMO in the Philippines and in the whole Asian region to be ISO 9002 certified.

ISO 9002

Smell good even under pressure

ASK any woman what's on her major turn-off list in the dating game and chances are she'll tell you it's body odor. Not only does it speak (or smell?) of poor hygiene, but it also signifies lack of consideration for others.

If your man's deodorant is not "strong" enough for his active male lifestyle—and he has tried every product in the market, from roll-ons, sprays to sticks—a breakthrough antiperspirant deodorant formula from Procter & Gamble Philippines will put an end to you and your man's dilemma.

Old Spice High Endurance Dry Cream (yes, the Old Spice of yore is back) is for the new generation of active men on the go. "It beats any roll-on, spray or stick," claims Jopa Malantic, assistant brand manager, Old Spice Asean, Australia and India (AAI).

To prove his point, Malantic took a piece of cloth where he applied four types of deodorant—roll-on, spray, stick and Old Spice High Endurance. When he poured water over the cloth, it seeped through all three types save for Old Spice. Still, he soaked the same cloth in a basinful of water, and while all three either virtually disappeared or was soaking wet, Old Spice endured and stayed in place. Old Spice proved its point that even under severe pressure, it's one heck of a deodorant that delivers what it promises—high endurance formula for "real" men.

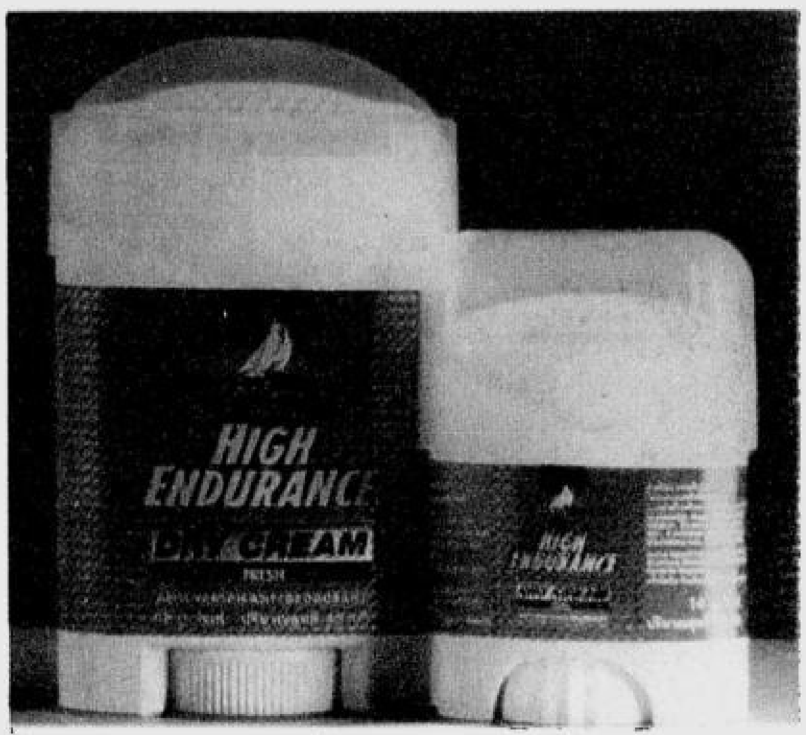
While you might say sweat isn't just made up of water as it is also composed of different types of acids, Jessica Abaya, managing director of P&G AAI, is quick to say that sweat is composed of more than 90 percent water. Other deodorants barely survived the water test, so how much more sweat?

Malantic explains the basic cause of body odor as: sweat produces bacteria, and bacteria causes body odor. To stop bacteria's growth, you have to stop the sweat. And since sweat generally breaks out in dark, enclosed areas of the body, the armpits are a vulnerable breeding area for bacteria. So, to stop underarm odor you have to first stop the sweat that in turn will stop bacterial growth.

Aside from Old Spice's breakthrough formula, it also comes in dry cream, the first of its kind in Asia. The dry cream formula assures it will evenly coat each armpit according to its unique contours. Roll-ons, sprays and sticks cannot be evenly applied, and so sweat and bacteria are likely to grow in the missed areas, Malantic says.

But that's not all. P&G is also offering the Old Spice Challenge. Buy any Old Spice High Endurance—either Pure Sports or Fresh—and test it yourself. If you're not satisfied, you can call 867-9200 (Metro Manila) or 1-800-1888-9200 (provincial callers). P&G will buy your deodorant back. And this promo is not for a limited time only. "We are so confident Old Spice is the best product in the market so we're not setting a time limit for the Old Spice Challenge," Abaya says.

Anne A. Jambora



OLD Spice High Endurance: the new deo/antiperspirant to help real men keep their cool

Alclear
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Alclear

NO ODOR, NO STAIN

A good deodorant does not prevent embarrassing odor and wetness only but also skin stain. From The Rogemson Company Inc. comes Alclear Anti-Perspirant and Whitening Deodorant. Unlike other deodorants that stain the underarms and cause reddening of the skin, Alclear has skin-whitening agents that minimize the unsightly blackening of the skin.

Sports events and clinics launched

AS part of its long running effort to encourage the youth to join healthy activities, Unilever Philippines, makers of Rexona deodorant sticks, is launching a nationwide program that encompasses one of the Filipino's favorite pastimes: sports.

Dubbed as the Rexona Ultimate Challenge Series (RUCS), the year-round program is made up of three major sporting events, namely the RUCS Cycling Competition, RUCS Beach Football Open and the RUCS Basketball Games and Cage Clinics.

The bikefest, a provincial cross-country race coorganized by Radio Mindanao Network, welcomes both amateur and professional cycling aficionados to test their mettle in 180-km races. The beach soccer tourney, a variety of the regular field football, is a new sport craze taking local beaches by storm.

The RUCS Basketball Games and Cage Clinics will be participated in by professional players from both the Metropolitan Basketball Association and the Philippine Basketball Association. RUCS basketball activities will take the teams to malls and schools nationwide.

Supporting the launch are beauty titlists Gem Padilla and Georgina Sandico, professional basketball players Rommel Adducul and Vince Hizon and Brazilian minor league football player Francisco Sebok.

The proper way to lose weight

DR. John Foreyt, a member of the National Task Force on the Prevention and Treatment of Obesity and the Obesity Association's Advisory Council of the US National Institutes of Health, recognizes the importance of the proper and best way of losing weight. "About 10 million people worldwide rely on Xenical (Orlistat), a prescription drug of Hoffman La Roche, to lose weight. Taking Xenical properly, however, is so important to success," Foreyt said.

There are three things to do to take Xenical properly, according to Foreyt. First, take only the prescribed dose. Second, take the tablets at the correct time. Since the drug is designed to stop some of the fat in your meals from being absorbed, it has to be in the intestinal tract when you eat fatty meals. The best time to take Xenical is at the beginning of a meal. Taking the pill way ahead the time you take your meal will lose the effect of Xenical.

Third, follow the diet properly. Stick to the prescribed amount of fat. "Some people think that because Xenical inhibits fat absorption, they can eat all the fat they want," Foreyt said. He further explained that the only place where Xenical dumps the excess fat is in the intestinal tract. The result of eating too much fat can increase the incidence of oily stools. This incidence, however, can be decreased by a low-fat diet. "Unlike appetite suppressants which would simply curb the appetite, Xenical motivates people to eat properly. Moreover, these appetite suppressants are associated with several systemic side effects like palpitations, increased blood pressure, headache, dry mouth and others," Foreyt added.

With more than 30 years of research and 200 clinical studies, Xenical is approved in more than 100 countries worldwide. It is locally available in all major drugstores.

Citibank congratulates the March winners of "5 + 5" promo

Nokia 3310 Winners:

March 1	March 8
Gil Gregorey Cura	Policarpio Alejandro
Simeon Regio	Elma Cortez
Jocelyn Villa	Sesinando Gomez
Carmelita Cruz	Virginia Gatmaytan
Maynard Santos	Estela Gaylon
March 2	March 9
Amalia Ormas	Leomer Fuentes
Rosalie Gredonia	Ariel Francisco
Stephanie Chua	Amado Jr. Antonio
Catherine Cornell	Benedict Francisco
Janet Ortega	Reynaldo Virata
March 5	March 12
Ma. Ann Shiela Tinio	Apollo Caneda
Anna Margarette Espanola	Angelina Acuna
Manuel Herrera	Ma. Loreto Alcera
Edgar Abelgas	Mary Grace Sevilla
Dexter Adajar	Marie Jean Abante
March 6	March 13
James Vincent de Dios	Ethel Nayra
Luisa delos Reyes	Jordan Mercado
Garette Galamgam	Pepito Veloso
Erlinda Dizon	Michael Chua
Anna Liza Enguerra	Juan Necesario
March 7	March 14
Aida Gallego	Virginia Tibus
Jason Pante	Anna Visitacion Cayetano
Roxanne Vicente	Gloria Henson
Ruby Abejo	Ma. Corazon Hing
Pier Angeli Iman	Arnold Martin Alonte

Palm m100 Winners:

March 1	March 8
Rowena Adriano	Aloysius Cartagenas
Rosalinda Escalona	Fredalyn Igano
Wilfredo Saguiped	Joanne Gabito
Hazel Leonardo	Ingrid Jo-anne Cua
Celso Reig	Purita Bunoy
March 2	March 9
Dennis B. Cerdenia	Irene Yu
Ma. Norma Chua	Rosalie Panganiban
Jonathan Lim	Francisco Valdez
Nestor Jr. Lofranco	Cristina Sampang
Nemesia Sayat	Ma. Ligaya Rimando
March 5	March 12
Rolando Achivar	Preciosa Ortilla
Collette Concepcion	Isabel Consolacion
Elda Jose	Alexander Francis Deato
Shirley Soyao	Ma. Kathleya Bernardo
Teresita Ang	Eulogio Beduya
March 6	March 13
Alma Grace Ancla	Rebecca Diwa
Irwin Abeleda	Michael V. Bautista
Manuel Wong	Teodora Axalan
Anna Aubrey Anonuevo	Reynaldo Tadios
Estrella Balo	Virgilio Cosico
March 7	March 14
Restituto Tizon	Annamarie Tanhueco
Ricardo Bautista	Ma. Rita Ang
Erwin Zalzos	Jefferson Tan
Zoam Flores	Therese Lopez
Peter Quilala	Philip Enrique Lim

Our warmest thanks to all the winners and participants!

For details on how to claim your prizes, please call 24-Hour CitiPhone at 995-9999 in Metro Manila, 234-9999 in Metro Cebu and 1-800-10-995-9999 in other provinces.

Per DTI-NCR permit no. 1259 series of 2000.

CITIBANK

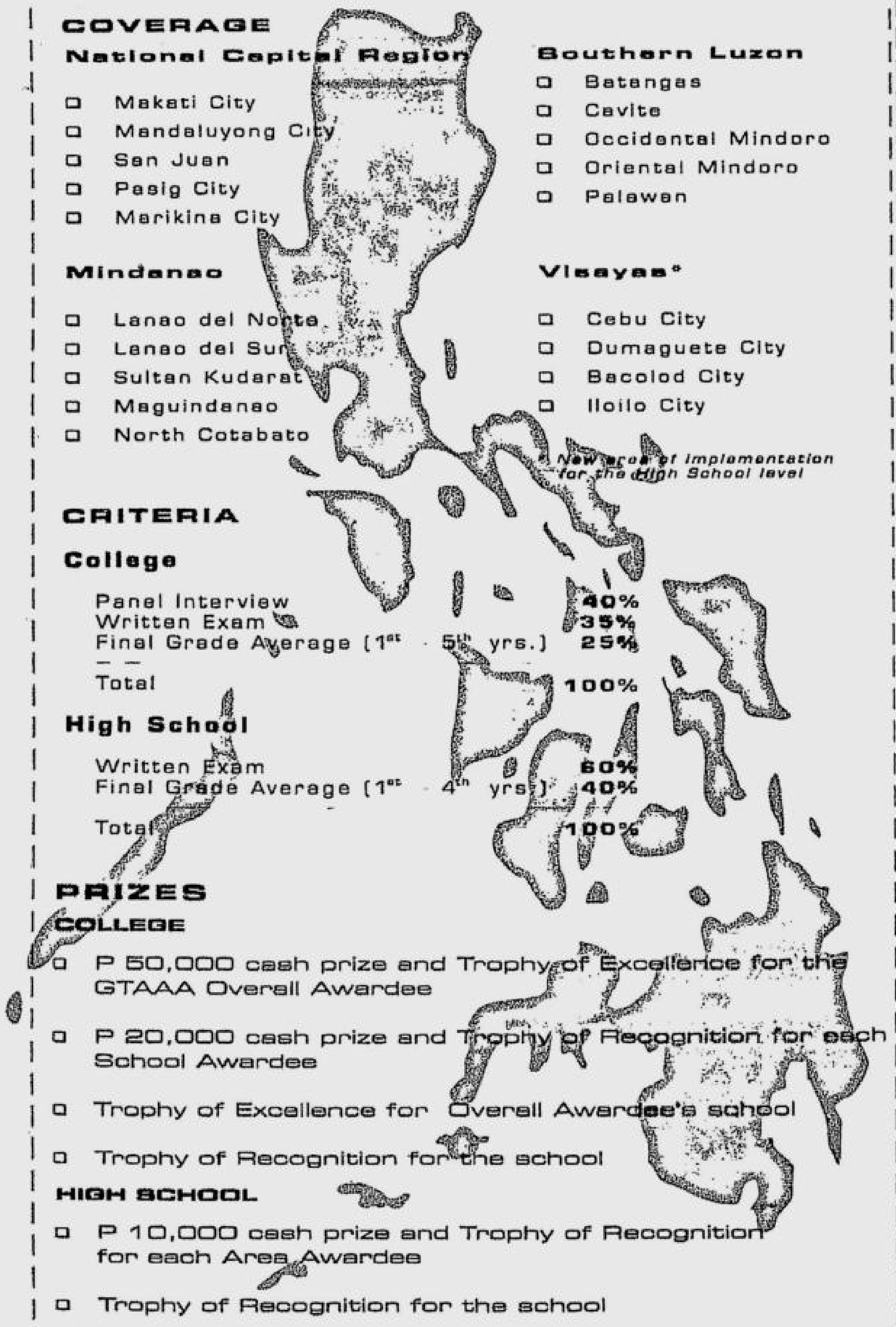
NOKIA
CITIBANK
"5+5" Promo

Enabling Future Leaders of the New Economy

Ten years ago, electronic commerce, or e-commerce, and other forms of high-speed communication as we know today were beyond our imagination. Fully-digital technologies have evolved such that limits once taken for granted are put to the test. The cellular phone, once deemed applicable for mere basic telephony, is now a handy and mobile tool for accessing the Internet and availing of information-on-demand ranging from stock market, weather and traffic updates to national and international news. The dawning of WAP (Wireless Application Protocol), GPRS (General Packet Radio Service) and eventually of 3G (third generation) technologies further demonstrates that the possibilities for personal and business applications are tremendous.

Behind the country's emerging New Economy lies a fundamental national treasure: our human resource which must be constantly motivated to excel. Much more than circuits and cables, it takes genuine leadership — that combination of brilliance, aptitude, individual drive and vision — to be a productive and significant e-commerce player within the new environment.

As a company that values people, Globe Telecom caps another year of molding young Filipino leaders through the 6th Globe Telecom Academic Achievement Awards (GTAAA). In this endeavor, Globe Telecom remains committed to the task of nation-building by enabling future leaders of the New Economy.



COVERAGE

National Capital Region

- ☐ Makati City
- ☐ Mandaluyong City
- ☐ San Juan
- ☐ Pasig City
- ☐ Marikina City

Mindanao

- ☐ Lanao del Norte
- ☐ Lanao del Sur
- ☐ Sultan Kudarat
- ☐ Maguindanao
- ☐ North Cotabato

Southern Luzon

- ☐ Batangas
- ☐ Cavite
- ☐ Occidental Mindoro
- ☐ Oriental Mindoro
- ☐ Palawan

Visayas*

- ☐ Cebu City
- ☐ Dumaguete City
- ☐ Bacolod City
- ☐ Iloilo City

** New area of implementation for the High School level*

CRITERIA

College

Panel Interview	40%
Written Exam	35%
Final Grade Average (1st - 5th yrs.)	25%
Total	100%

High School

Written Exam	60%
Final Grade Average (1st - 4th yrs.)	40%
Total	100%

PRIZES

COLLEGE

- ☐ P 50,000 cash prize and Trophy of Excellence for the GTAAA Overall Awardee
- ☐ P 20,000 cash prize and Trophy of Recognition for each School Awardee
- ☐ Trophy of Excellence for Overall Awardee's school
- ☐ Trophy of Recognition for the school

HIGH SCHOOL

- ☐ P 10,000 cash prize and Trophy of Recognition for each Area Awardee
- ☐ Trophy of Recognition for the school

** All College and High School Awardees may also receive other special prizes.*

> *"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."*
>
> *— Philippians 4:13*

So goes the motto that Jinoe Morcilla Gavan lives by. And it almost seems like that is exactly what he can do — all things.

From his days in the St. La Salle Integrated School to the University of St. La Salle Bacolod, where he recently earned his degree in Electronics and Communications Engineering, Jinoe has always been an achiever and a leader recognized by both superiors and peers. In fact, he received both the DOST scholarship award and the College of Engineering leadership award in college.

Outside the realm of academics, Jinoe has further exerted effort to involve himself with socio-political affairs, journalism and the student arm of IECEP (Institute of Electronics and Communications Engineers of the Philippines).

Jinoe also continues in his drive to achieve through his interests in computer graphics, communications systems and fine arts.

As the GTAAA goes, Jinoe feels that it is "... a great program that provides excellent exposure to graduating students. It can add to one's experience and confidence as one prepares himself for the real world."

Today, Globe Telecom affirms his view and joins the groups who have at one point or another recognized Jinoe for the achiever that he is.

Jinoe Morcilla Gavan, indeed an emerging leader within the New Economy, is the Overall Awardee for the 2001 GTAAA.

CO

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Iloilo City

Gaylord C. Belen
ECE
Mapua Institute of Technology
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ECE
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Mary Grace C. de Vera
ECE
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NCR

Renato D. Francisco, Jr.
ECE
Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila
NCR

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ECE
University of San Carlos - Technological Center
Cebu City

Ricardo C. Novenario
ECE
University of the Philippines
Diliman
NCR

HIGH

Mark Lester N. Alvarez
Our Lady of Caysasay Academy
Batangas

Aileen A. Artus
University of Negros Occidental - Recoletos
Bacolod City

Reynalyn G. Babidor
Notre Dame of Isulan High School
Sultan Kudarat

Niño dJ. Eustaquio
La Immaculada Concepcion School
Pasig City

Gwenneilyn M. Franza
Cebu City National Science High School
Cebu City

Paul Marty Jordan O. Fuentes
Divine Word College of San Jose
Occidental Mindoro

Normilah D. Lindao
Marawi City National High School
Lanao del Sur

Brian P. Loya
Marist School
Marikina City

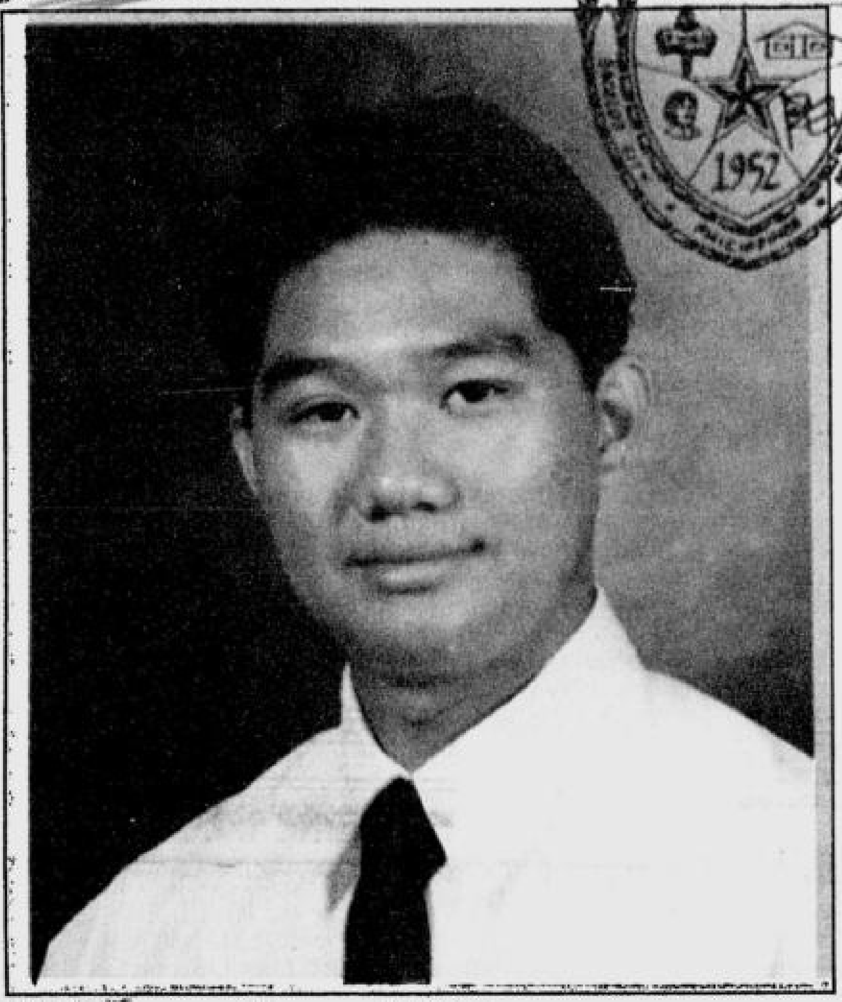
Allindon D. Montesco
Christ the King College de Maranding
Lanao del Norte

ALCATEL ERICSSON FUJITSU hp

GTAAA
2001

The 6th Globe Telecom Academic Achievement Awards

GTAAA OVERALL AWARDEE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Abe P. Villajos
ECE
Mindanao Polytechnic
State College
Cagayan de Oro City

Erwin V. Salevaria
ECE
Don Bosco Technical College
NCR

Christian Anthony T. Reyes
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University of Santo Tomas
NCR

Ritchie D. Ramos
EE
Silliman University
Dumaguete City

LLEGE LEVEL

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ECE
Xavier University
Ateneo de Cagayan
Cagayan de Oro City

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ECE
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Iligan Institute of Technology
Iligan City

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De La Salle University
NCR

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ECE
University of Southeastern
Philippines
Davao City

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Makati City

Byron Jordan L. de Borja
Albert Einstein School
Maguindanao

Denise G. dela Cuesta
Palawan National School
Palawan

Katrina M. Dequiña
Dominican College
San Juan

aria Francesca F. Gatpandan
Rogationist Academy
Cavite

Ace P. Geroche
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High School
Oriental Mindoro

inier Owen Fenar S. Roseta
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GLOBE TELECOM

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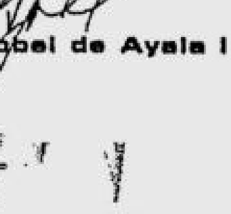
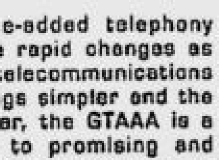


We at the Ayala Group have long been strong advocates of social responsibility. With this continuing commitment, all our Ayala Group companies place a high degree of importance on community-related projects which make a difference in the lives of many Filipinos. Now on its 6th year, the GTAAA has helped many deserving students in the communities we serve and has thus earned the support and respect of our friends and partners in the private and public sectors and the academe. It is our hope that the GTAAA's continuing recognition of outstanding Filipino youths will inspire all of us to contribute our share in the difficult task of nation-building and thus secure the future of our children.

Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayala II
Chairman
Globe Telecom



Globe Telecom has been a pioneer in delivering value-added telephony services to the Filipino people. While addressing these rapid changes as well as the increasing demand for more sophisticated telecommunications services, Globe Telecom continues to strive to make things simpler and the future a lot brighter for our youth. Now in its sixth year, the GTAAA is a manifestation of our commitment to give recognition to promising and exemplary students, thus contributing to their growth and empowerment to be our country's leaders for tomorrow.

Gerardo C. Ablaza, Jr.
President & CEO
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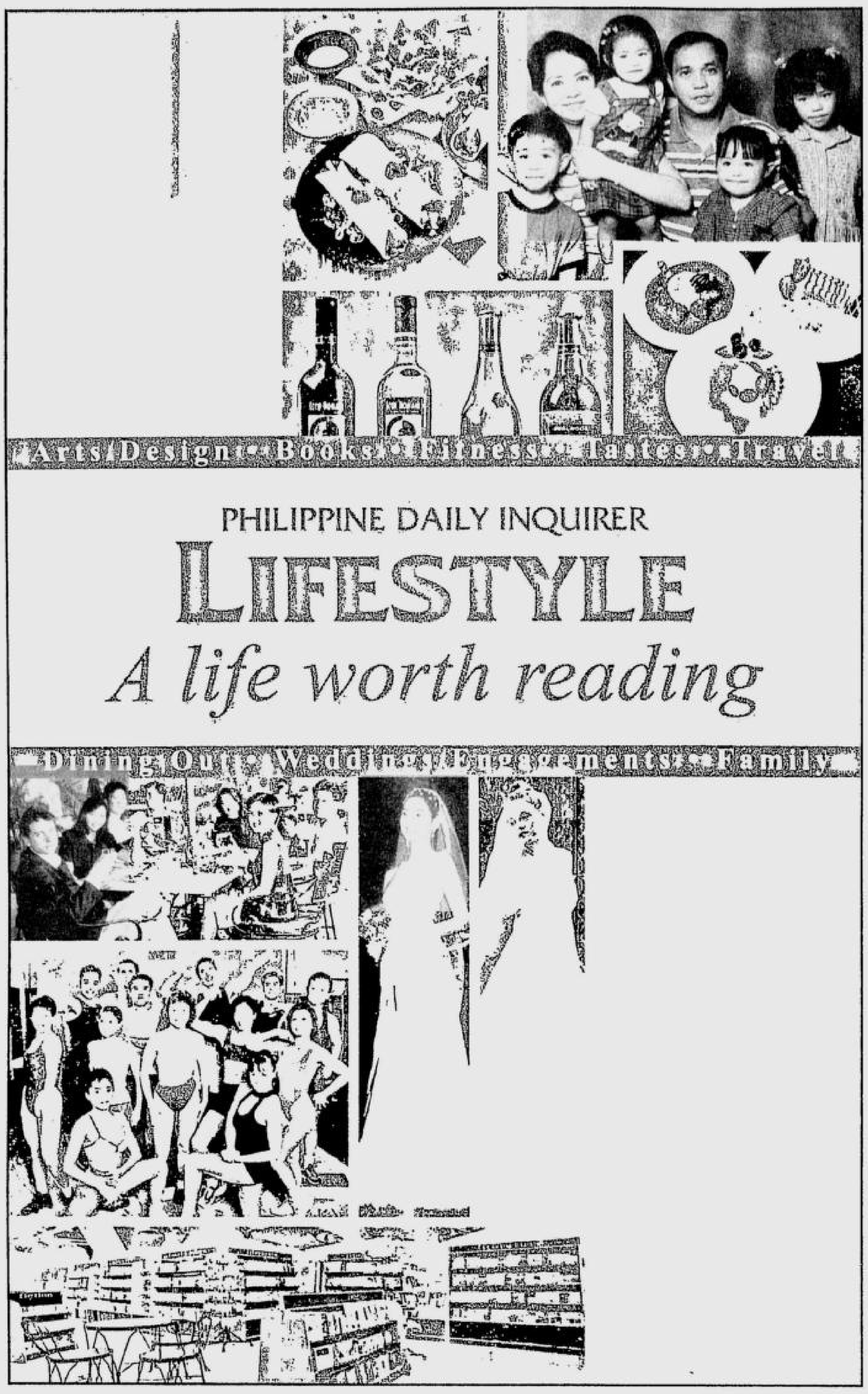

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GLOBE TELECOM AT CENTEX GROUNDBREAKING

In one of the highlights of the recent inauguration of the Center of Excellence in Public Elementary Education (Centex) in Bauan, Batangas, Globe Telecom officials, and other corporate supporters of the program marked a groundbreaking ceremony for the school. Shown burying a time capsule for Centex during the groundbreaking rites are Globe Telecom president and CEO Gerardo Ablaza, Jr. (third from left) and Globe Telecom chief operations adviser Edward Ying (second from left). Among those shown with Ablaza and Ying are Department of Education, Culture and Sports Secretary Raul Roco (extreme left, partly hidden); Singaporean Ambassador Jackie Foo; Presidential Management Staff Secretary Victoria Garchitorena, and Bauan Mayor Hermie Dolor.

Globe-sponsored Centex inaugurated

TELECOMMUNICATIONS company Globe Telecom and other major program supporters recently commemorated the formal inauguration of the Center of Excellence in Public Elementary Education (Centex) in Batangas on March 8.

Centex, a special learning center located in Bauan, Batangas, aims to help bring the highest standards of education to bright children who come from underprivileged families – thus making it possible for such intellectually gifted children to avail of a competitive education. Having opened its doors last October to 76 kindergarten students, the center has already marked much success in instilling good quality education to its deserving young pupils.

A multisectoral undertaking, Centex-Batangas is a collaboration among Ayala Foundation, the provincial government of Batangas and the Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS). Centex-Batangas is principally funded by Globe Telecom. It is also supported by Pure Foods Corporation. The aim is to set up an endowment fund with income from interest providing for the annual operating costs of the school.

The Batangas Centex is actually the second of a series of schools that is planned to be put up all over the country. The first Centex school, pioneered by Ayala Foundation in 1998, is located in Tondo, Manila.

Centex-Batangas' intellectually gifted students come from families in the Batangas communities which only earn an average of P7,000 a month. The school selects the students based on a pre-test administered to applicants, admitting only the highest scoring children.

The accepted students are entitled to education assistance as well as free school supplies, school uniforms and text books. Transportation and food costs of the students are also subsidized by Centex.

The Centex project applies a holistic approach in providing education to its children. Centex employs an advanced curriculum that includes computer-aided learning, as well as exposure to the arts, sports and other insightful co-curricular and extra-curricular activities. To further aid the students in their learning, the redesigned facilities of the school come complete with updated textbooks and instructional materials, and provisions such as computer laboratories and audio-visual rooms.

Centex teachers are also specially handpicked for the job, having undergone intensive training to equip them with the necessary skills and expertise to implement to school's special programs. Two teachers are assigned to every 25 students to allow more teacher-student interaction.

The Centex program also helps nurture good family relations between the students and their parents, as it gives the parents access to counseling, parenting seminars and livelihood skills training. The parents help out the school by offering service to Centex 30 hours a year, by rendering such services as helping make visuals for the classrooms, as well as cooking and serving meals.

Realizing that some of the poor children may not be getting by in terms of proper nutrition, Centex also makes an effort to provide supplemental feeding to its students in the kindergarten to Grade 3 levels by providing them with ample nutritionally balanced morning snacks and lunch.

Soon after the launch of Centex-Manila in 1998, the Centex program has already shown encouraging results. The first batch of Centex pupils, now second graders at the Manila school, recently topped the national exams for the entire Manila. The school's kindergarten students, meanwhile, came in fourth among all Manila schools.

The students have also won two gold medals in the elocution and story-reading contests in the district and division levels, and have ranked first in a division-wide Math contest.

Globe's Y2K information campaign wins Anvil

An information program of Globe Telecom which promoted awareness among its employees of the Y2K issue recently won an Anvil special award from the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) during the public relations organization's recent 36th Anvil Awards ceremonies.

Through its Y2K information campaign, Globe Telecom was able to give its employees valuable information about Y2K preparedness and promoted involvement from them in doing their share. The company's Y2K information efforts to keep employees up-to-date regarding the issues included regular newsletters, e-mails, flyers and roadshows.

All in all, Globe Telecom marked an important year in terms of Anvil Awards this year by winning a total of four Anvil Awards. Aside from its Y2K information campaign, Globe Telecom also won two Anvil Awards of Excellence for its magazine "The Globe Spectrum" and its outreach program for Payatas, and an Anvil Award of Merit for its Gentxt program.

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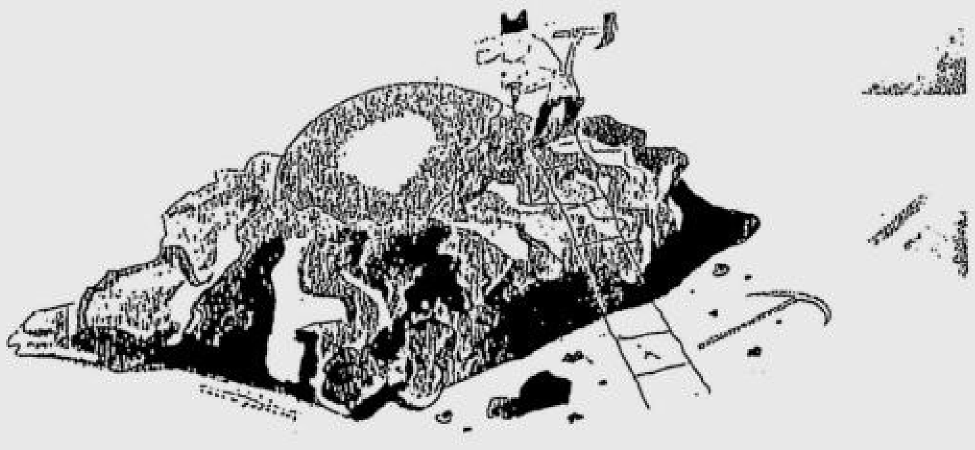

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Obtaining messages from spirits

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

COMMUNICATION with the spirit world, either for obtaining unknown information, guidance in decision making, knowing what's to come, or protection against harm, etc. has been going on for tens of thousands of years.

Among Christians, perhaps the first recorded case of such communication was that of Adam and Eve talking to God and his angels. Among the Hindus, the "Bhagavad Gita" tells the story of Arjuna talking to Lord Vishnu.

Indeed, the oral and verbal history of mankind is replete with numerous examples of human contact with the spirit world, the occurrence or truth of which is taken for granted. In fact, no religion in the world has ever been founded without such contact.

And despite the protestations of skeptical scientists, religious bigots and agnostics, there was never a time in man's history when such communication with the spirit world has ever ceased to exist. Revelation continues up to this very day in every part of the world.

As American writer and psychic researcher Brad Steiger pointed out in his 1973 book, "Revelation: The Divine Fire":

"After exhaustive research and interviews, I am convinced that the soul-igniting mechanism of the gifts of the Spirit did not cease with the prophets and saints of antiquity. I contend that the Divine Fire—the transfer of thought, spirit and power from an Infinite Intelligence to a finite, human intelligence—is a vital, continuing process which observes no denominational boundaries and employs a spiritual, psychic mechanism that is timeless and universal."

To prove his point, Steiger gave several remarkable parallel cases between revelations during biblical times and those of the modern era. I choose only the two following cases:

"Saul, a young firebrand, a member of the Sanhedrin who were dedicated to halting the Apostles' preaching of Christ, was struck blind on the road to Damascus. When he recovered his sight by heeding instructions given to him in a vision, he not only changed his name, his religion and his life's work, but he may have altered the course of history. In like manner were a salesman in South Dakota, a businessman in New Jersey and a policeman in Nebraska temporarily blinded by a strange and powerful light that appeared above them as they traveled lonely highways. When they recovered their sight, they changed their names, their occupations and began to devote their lives to the preaching of peace, love and brotherhood, and the coming Days of Glory…

"Moses spoke to the angel of the Lord as it appeared in a pillar of flame over a wilderness bush. The voice from the fire assured Moses of divine aid and the power to work miracles. In like manner a voice from a glowing orb spoke to an artist from England, a clergyman from Illinois and a sailor from Kentucky and promised them paranormal powers. All have since forsaken their former callings and have devoted their lives to cleansing the Earth for the coming New Age."

The manner by which the spirit world or higher intelligence communicates with human beings varies greatly. And those who are able to get such messages are called by various names, like visionaries, shamans, channels, mediums, prophets, spiritists and mystics.

Also the manner in which such messages are obtained differ greatly depending on the medium's character, culture, language and tradition. The type of spirit communicating to the living can also influence the way in which such messages are conveyed.

Some spirits use the sound of a human-like voice, which can be heard distinctly, others communicate through the Ouija board or spirit of the glass or coin. Still others use modern instruments or machines like telephones, typewriters, computers, television sets, cassette tape and even the Internet. The spirit master painters communicate to Brazilian medium Luis Gasparetto through painting using both his hands and even feet.

Some of these spirit messages are profound and spiritually inspiring, while others are trivial and even bordering on the ridiculous. I guess this depends on the level of the spirit communicating and the degree of awareness or personality of the recipient or medium.

When talking about spirit communication the most important thing to do is to test its validity and determine its source. This is not always easy. Dr. Rayner C. Johnson gave three criteria or tests in his book, "Watcher on the Hills," which was quoted by Brad Steiger. These tests are:

- The pragmatic test. Has it led to a well-balanced, happy, serene living of an enhanced quality?
- Is it consistent with established findings of reason? (This need not imply that it is supported by reason.)
- Is it unifying and integrative, or isolating and destructive so far as the individual's relationship to an all embracing whole is concerned?

The Christian Bible itself, however, gives us the simplest and best test. It says, "By their fruits, you shall see them."

Write to Room 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City or e-mail jlicauco@geocities.com.. Visit www.angel.com/journal/licauco. Listen to dzMM every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

Spreading preventive medicine awareness

WITH THE THEME "Preventive Medicine Awareness," the Association of Asia Brewery Medical Scholars rendered free medical screening to about 500 people during the group's 100th lay forum recently.

Members of the association conducted osteoporosis screening, body mass index, body fat analysis, cholesterol and triglyceride, pulmonary function test, blood pressure measurement and electrocardiograph (ECG). Resource speakers talked about the maladies of asthma, pneumonia, hypertension, sugar and fats and obesity.

Industrialist Lucio Tan, who established the Asia Brewery Medical Specialty Scholarship Foundation (ABMSSF) in 1984, explained the rationale of the activity. "This seminar teaches the layman about diseases that may possibly afflict him or his relatives, the symptoms of these diseases that he must be aware of, and the measures to avoid them," Tan told guests and participants at Century Park Hotel.

Since its founding, the ABMSSF has sponsored 50 medical scholars to specialize in the United States, Australia, England, Germany and Spain. Of these number, 33 have returned to the country and now hold key positions in major hospitals in Metro Manila.

Guest of honor Sen. Juan Flavier commended the foundation for its commitment not only to advance their scholars' education but to pass on and apply what they learned overseas to fellow Filipinos.

The scholars serve as resource persons during the group's monthly forum. This way, according to Tan, charitable work and education benefit many.

Flavier also said he will work for the passage of the Hospital Modernization Act that will improve services and facilities of the country's provincial hospitals. "If we could have P50 billion for military modernization, why not P10 billion for our hospital modernization?" He vowed to raise funds to increase the minimal honoraria that barangay health workers are receiving.

The Asia Brewery Medical Specialty Scholarship is one of the civic projects under the Tan Yan Kee Foundation, the principal philanthropic arm of the Tan Group of Co. committed to assisting in the enhancement of the quality of education and lives of Filipinos.

Traditional Medicinals
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16

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Loneliness of the long-distance woman biker

BY DOS MARIA

I LEARNED how to bike as a little girl. As a cyclist I have my share of funny memories. I remember my blue bell-bottom pants (*'yun ang uso noong* '70s) getting stuck on the chain of my bike, and I crashing downhill into a dingy canal on Maayusin Street in UP Village where our family used to live. I also can't forget that I lent my new red bike to my best friend then and it got stolen. How my parents scolded me (especially because my friend did not replace it).

Today, three decades after, I consider myself a hardcore cyclist. I use my bike when I travel to work. The bicycle as a mode of transport is a far-out idea for many middle-class people. It is also especially uncommon for women in the Philippines. However, riding the bicycle as a mode of transport is a best economic option for many people.

A woman riding a bicycle on the street sticks out like a sore thumb. "*Ay, babae*," I hear people say when I pass. "*Babae, o*," others stare with a look of bewilderment on their faces. One very seldom sees women on bicycles. This is confirmed by a 1999 study which showed that out of 174 cyclists who were interviewed on the road in four different places in Marikina City, only nine were women.

No doubt that many people in Filipino society still believe that a woman's place is only in the home or in the private sphere. Getting on a bike means venturing into the public sphere—the outdoors, which is believed to be mainly men's preserve. Not to be forgotten is the harassment women face when they are on the street. It's not enough that you're the underdog as a cyclist on the streets against the road rage of motor vehicle drivers. Women get a lot of sexist remarks from men as they pass on a bike.

Society, through its ordinary and taken-for-granted beliefs, limit women's mobility. Too bad that girls are taught by their parents to be *mahinhin* (soft/slow) and *mabango* (sweet-smelling), which is in direct contradiction to getting on a bike—one has to be *malakas ang loob* (assertive) and going under the sun will surely leave you *amoy araw* (smelling like the sun). Time to change our ways with little girls!

Another wrong but very common belief is that rigorous physical activity is also not the proper thing for girls and young women; and that physical activities, especially strenuous activities, like biking on the streets, are for boys alone. (As if women do not do most, if not all, of the dirty housework at home!) In our country, a young girl active in strenuous physical activity is not "ordinary." We should open our eyes to the fact that both male and female are capable!

In many Asian countries, men and women use the bicycle as transport. China is the best example of a country where a bicycle culture is historically deeply rooted. My friend Jo, who has spent time in India, says that she has witnessed many schoolgirls in their *sari* (Indian traditional costume) ride the bicycle to and fro their homes and school. A lot of women also use their bicycles in Vietnam and the streets are flooded with women ferrying goods from the market. In Africa, there are nonprofit groups, which use the bicycle as an entry point for literacy programs for women.

Here in the Philippines, my friend Letty, who lives in Binangonan, tells me how she used to bike to market in Binangonan. (It's too unsafe to do this now, she says. But then, what is safe in this country?) Filipino women can get their inspiration from experiences in various parts of the world.

Cycling and women are not incompatible, as most Filipinos still feel and believe. The challenge is to create an environment for the safety of cyclists—both men and women, girls and boys. Even more urgent is to work for a cultural and economic environment which encourages more people, especially women, to get on bicycles.

Dos Maria is one of the Tres Marias of the core group "parplays" of the Firefly Brigade. She is a faculty member of the Women and Development Program, College of Social Welfare and Community Development, University of the Philippines, Diliman. The Firefly Brigade is the organizer of the annual Tour of the Fireflies, a Metro Manila seven-city Tour on Bicycles.

Cycling is not unbecoming of a woman. It is, in fact, the best economic option for many Filipinos regardless of sex

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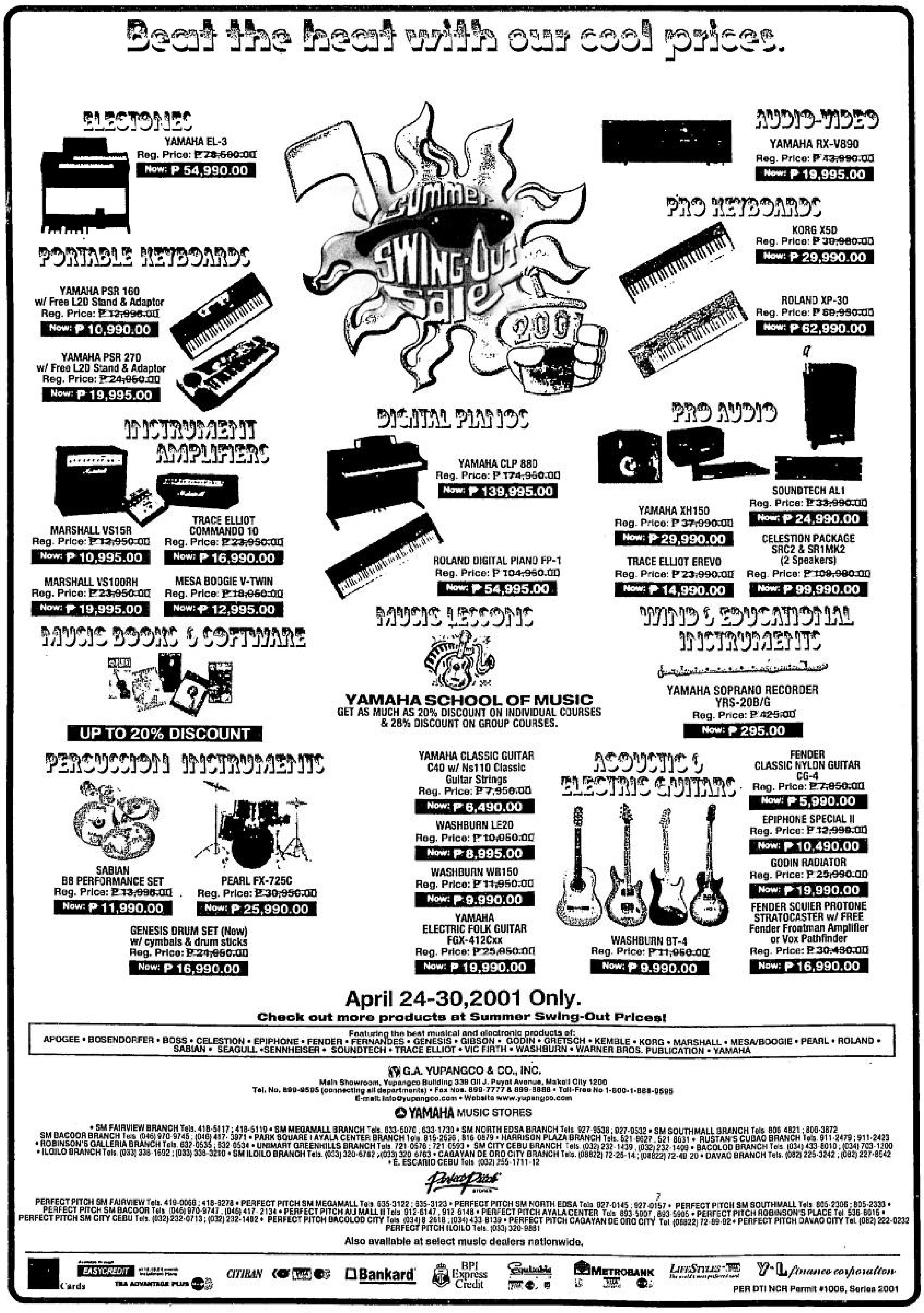

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